

INTRODUCTION

1. A date in God's court - Lk 24:48. God's purposes for the nations [v46-47]. Hear res'd Jesus aware of preceding revelation of OT & His ministry.

1st: Who Is Speaking?

1. Answer w/ adoration & worship - Thomas: *My Lord & my God!*
2. Answer in faith - Savior, defeated Death & to ascend to throne of God.
3. The obligation to receive *witness* depends on the authority of the one witnessing: accountability; legal obligation; courtroom; inescapable.

2nd: Who Are These Witnesses?

1. A 1:21-22 [Ps 109:8]. cf. Lk 6:13 chosen 12
 - i. List of the 11 [A 1:13] w/ 120 *brethren*. Judas defined by OT - v16.
 - ii. *accompanied us* = travel together on a journey.
 - iii. JnB to Jesus' ascension. Lk 9-19 = "journey section" [Lk 9:51].
 - a. where we presently are: *days approaching His ascension*
 - b. cf. Lk 9:28-36: Transfiguration - re: His *exodus* = res to glory
 - c. The new Apostle had to be an eye-witness.
 - iv. Qualifications are *necessary* [v21] - v22: *one of these must*

3rd: To What Do the Apostles Witness?

1. *To become a witness w/ us of His resurrection* [A 1:22 - Lk 24:48].
 - i. *You = the 12* given Jesus' authority & HS to pen documents of NCov & explain the signif of Jesus' life, death, & resurrection.
2. *You are witnesses of these things* [Lk 24:48]: what thgs? v44-47 - all thgs revealed in OT + Jesus' ministry. A 1:22 - *witness of His resurrection*.
3. The word *witness* is informed by OT [Lk 24:44].

4th: Our Accountability to The Witness of General Revelation

1. *Witness* is bound up w/ the *revelation* of God re: Jesus. We are accountable to God's witness by virtue of creation, fall, & redemption.
2. Creation witnesses to us re: Creator who deserves our worship.
 - i. Ps 19:1-3 [Ps 89:37]. Creation reveals *glory of God*. Day & night *speak* & convey *knowledge* - compels us to worship.

- a. All men sense existence of deity - pagans locate God w/i creation. "Be one w/ nature". Michael Murphy & St. Francis of Assisi.
- b. People get religious about nature - why?
- ii. Man is Image of God - Gn 1:7-9 innately oriented to God & set in world subject to judgment - *7x it was good - very good* [Gn 1:31]. Man is made to be like God & to live w/ God.
- iii. A 14:15-17 God's goodness is fndtn for revelation of God's grace
3. The fallen world witnesses to wrath & points to coming judgment.
 - i. Adam fell thru sin into death - physical & spiritual.
 - ii. Gen Rev reveals wrath - Rom 1. See argument of Rom 1 to Rom 2.
 - a. 1:1-7 fulfilled promises of OT - Paul's *apostleship* [= witness]
 - b. God witnesses - v9. Eager to preach gospel: why? R 1:18-20
 - c. All men given evidence - w/o excuse = accountable to God. No excuse for idolatry [v25].
 - d. Wrath - separation from God: abandons to sexual promiscuity [v24]; to sexual perversion [v26]; to depravity of mind [v28].
 - iii. All men come to final judgment - Rom 2. Creation - Fall [idolatry] - wrath - final judgment - eternity. Little courtroom: conscience 2:15
4. Indicts Jews in R 2:17ff - apostasy to idolatry: man's root sin.

5th: Our Accountability to The Witness of Special, Saving Revelation

1. We rehearse sequence of Gn 2 to 3: ushered into God's courtroom.
2. Astonishingly, God in judgment, reveals mercy - gives Adam promises & provisions for salvation. God will still accomplish His original purpose.
3. Revelation of redemption unfolds thru OT & culminates in Jesus = God's witness. We are accountable for redemptive revelation.

Applic #1: God's Witness Is Given to All of Us

1. God has given us His *witness* & calls us to judgment [Hbs 9:27].
2. Witness = creation, conscience, wrath, revealed redemption - accountable.
3. The gospel witnesses to God's love for sinners in Christ. Do you believe His witness? His testimony is true: *let God be found true tho every man be found a liar* [R 3:4]. Will you believe Him?