



————— ≈ *Week Four* ≈ —————

Original Message Date: May 17, 2020

Message Title: Death loses its grip

This weeks primary Biblical text: Acts 2:14-24

Supporting scriptures: Ephesians 5:18, Joel 2:28-31, 1 Peter 1:3-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, Romans 6:8-11, John 11:21-27

This weeks memory challenge: Acts 2:24 *“But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”*

Reading for next week: Acts 2:25-37

————— ≈ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ≈ —————

Why are the ‘speeches’ in Acts so important to the books overall message?

- They make up 1/3 of the entire book of Acts
- They are the source of much of Acts theological content
- They focus on revealing who Christ is, the significance of His resurrection, and how Christ is the fulfillment of ‘Old Testament’ prophecy.

How do these speeches demonstrate a good understanding of how scripture is both written by men and inspired by God?

Peter opens with a humorous rebuttal of the disciples being drunk. What is the subtle connection between a person being ‘drunk on wine’ and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Why did Peter quote the scriptural passage from Joel 2:28-31? What is his overall point?

With this passage from Joel, what does Peter proclaim about the timing of the ‘Last Days’?

Pastor Ethan described the concept of “Already but Not Yet” when interpreting prophetic passages.

- If, as Peter proclaims, the ‘last days’ began with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, then what are the characteristics of these ‘last days’ in which we already live?

- What are the ‘not yet’ characteristics of the last day?

What did Pastor Ethan assert is the primary emphasis of the New Testament regarding the last days? The “Already” or the “Not Yet”? Why does this perspective matter?

What is the significance of Joel’s language describing how God’s Spirit would be poured out on ‘All People’? What are common human class distinctions Joel’s prophecy casts aside? How is this important for us today?

In verses 19-21, Joel’s prophecy turns toward imagery of judgement. Why is this so important, and what is the most important statement in these verses?

Read verses 22-23. Ultimately, who was responsible for Jesus’ death on the cross? What does this teach us about God, and about our own sin?

Read Acts 2:24, Romans 6:8-11, and John 11:21-27. From what you see in these passages, write in your own words what is now *true of us In Christ*. Why are these a powerful source of hope?

What's your biggest takeaway from today's message?

What's your biggest question from today's message?