

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How You Can Be Sure

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 10:38-48

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Acts is what Jesus is continuing to do.
 - i) It is the book of Acts of the Lord Jesus Christ, not only so long ago, but right now in the twenty-first century.
- b) That old time religion is also the new time religion.
 - i) It is also the all-time religion.
 - (1) Therefore, it is the anytime religion.
 - (a) Anytime you need the Lord, He is available to you.
 - (2) Therefore, it ought to be the every time religion.
 - (a) You ought not to turn anywhere else but to that old time religion, which is the new time and now time religion.
- c) In today's message, we will look at three witnesses that will attest that Jesus Christ is the saving Son of God.
 - i) We can have a know-so salvation where we will not have to say that we think so, hope so, or maybe so.
 - (1) But we can say that we know that we know that we are saved.
- d) Cornelius was a Gentile.
 - i) Up until this time, the Gentiles had not been added to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) All of the early believers were Jewish.
 - ii) He was a Roman army officer.
 - (1) He was from Italy and garrisoned in Palestine.
 - iii) He had a hunger to know God.
- e) Supernaturally, God brought Cornelius and the Apostle Peter together.
 - i) Cornelius got all of his friends, neighbors, and relatives together to listen to Peter.
 - (1) They wanted to know about the faith, how to be saved, and how to be certain.
 - ii) Acts 10:38-42
- f) Today's three indisputable witnesses tell us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that by trusting in Him, we can be saved.

2) THE PERSONAL WITNESS OF THE SAINTS (ACTS 10:39-41)

- a) Acts 10:39
 - i) "*We are witnesses.*"
- b) Imagine that you are impaneling a jury.
 - i) You want the jury to be impartial, and you want the jury to render a good verdict.
 - (1) Therefore, you try to get a broad section of the community to be on the jury.
 - ii) Then, the facts are given to the jury, and they come to a conclusion.
 - (1) That is what the Lord did when He took the apostles.
- c) The apostles had been with the Lord Jesus for three to four years.
 - i) They lived with Him.

- ii) They walked with Him.
- iii) They were companions.
- iv) They ate together and fellowshiped together.
- d) The apostles included the following:
 - i) John was a young man.
 - (1) He was a visionary and a philosopher-type of person.
 - ii) Simon Peter was the opposite of John.
 - (1) He was a big, hard-working fisherman.
 - (2) He probably had pretty salty language before he got saved.
 - (a) He slipped into it after he got saved.
 - (b) He knew how to curse and swear.
 - iii) There was Simon the Zealot.
 - (1) The word “zealot” means “right winger”.
 - (2) He was a political activist.
 - (a) He was a Zionist.
 - (b) He was for Israel.
 - iv) There was Matthew the Publican.
 - (1) Matthew was a tax collector.
 - (2) He had sold out to the Roman government.
 - (a) Palestine had been occupied by the Roman government.
 - (b) He was thought of as a turn-coat.
 - (i) Can you imagine having Simon and Matthew on the same jury and trying to ask them to reach a unanimous verdict about anything?
 - v) Nathaniel was a cynic.
 - (1) John 1:46
 - vi) Thomas was a doubter.
 - (1) John 20:25
 - vii) Philip was a figurer.
 - (1) John 6:5-7
 - (2) He had everything figured out and pigeon-holed.
 - (3) He was a facts and figures type of guy.
 - viii) James was a hard-bitten, business man.
 - (1) He was a no-nonsense guy.
 - ix) Andrew was a nice guy.
 - (1) He was the one running around patting little children on the head.
 - (2) John 6:8-9
- e) There could not have been a wider mixture of people than these eleven apostles.
 - i) And yet, they came out with unanimity as witnesses about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) They witnessed His virtuous life.
 - i) Acts 10:38-39
 - (1) Jesus went about doing good.

- (2) They saw it.
 - (a) He turned water into wine.
 - (i) John 2:1-11
 - (b) He walked on water.
 - (i) John 6:16-21
 - (c) He raised a little girl from the dead.
 - (i) Matthew 9:18-26
 - (d) These miracles were real.
 - (i) Peter knew they were real because he was there.
- ii) Peter was an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus' majesty when He was transfigured.
 - (1) Matthew 17:1-8
- iii) Acts 10:39
- iv) They were with Jesus for three to four years, and not one flaw did they find in Jesus' character.
- v) They saw the miracle-working power of God.
- g) They were witnesses of His vicarious death.
 - i) Acts 10:39
 - (1) Peter said that they were standing back in the crowd, but they saw as the nails were driven into Jesus' hands.
 - ii) They heard Him as He cried out and sobbed in anguish.
 - (1) Matthew 27:46
 - iii) They were there when He said, "I thirst."
 - (1) John 19:28
 - iv) They were there when He prayed, "Father forgive them", and when He commended His Spirit into the Father's hands.
 - (1) Luke 23:34, 46
 - v) They were there when Jesus was taken down from the cross and put in the tomb.
 - vi) They saw Him die for our sins.
 - (1) He became accursed for us.
 - (2) He took our place.
- h) They were witnesses of His resurrection.
 - i) Acts 10:40-41
 - (1) This is not a fable; it is a fact.
 - (2) Peter told Cornelius that God raised Jesus from the dead.
 - ii) More than five hundred people saw Him at one time.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:6
 - iii) The apostles sat down and ate with Him; they touched Him.
 - (1) John 21:9-14
- i) These early Christians died for what they believed.
 - i) This same Peter was crucified upside down.
 - ii) Some people will live for a lie, but no one will willingly die for a lie.
 - iii) They died for this faith because they had learned to laugh at death.

- (1) They knew that Jesus Christ had come out of the grave.
 - j) The history of the church and the testimony of the saints of all of the ages is one dramatic truth: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 - k) The apostles were witnesses.
 - i) They told what their eyes had seen and what their hearts experienced.
 - (1) A Christian with a vibrant testimony is never at the mercy of a skeptic with an argument.
- 3) THE PROPHETIC WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES (ACTS 10:43)
- a) This verse gives us the key to the Old Testament.
 - i) The Old Testament is about Jesus.
 - (1) It says that Jesus saves.
 - b) The Bible has one hero: Jesus.
 - c) The Bible has one message: Jesus saves.
 - i) It was not written primarily to give the history of Israel or to tell us about ceremonies and rituals.
 - ii) It was written to tell us that Jesus saves.
 - iii) The New Testament was written about this, as well; but Peter talked about the Old Testament.
 - (1) He spoke about the prophets.
 - (a) *“To Him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness.”*
 - (i) Acts 10:43
 - d) When the Bible is opened, Jesus steps out of the pages.
 - i) In the Garden of Eden when God slew innocent animals to make a covering of skin for Adam and Eve, this pictured the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Genesis 3:21
 - ii) When Abel slew an innocent lamb for an atonement of sins, Abel’s lamb spoke of the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) Genesis 4:4
 - iii) The seed of the woman that would bruise the serpent’s head speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Genesis 3:15
 - iv) God told Abraham that He would bless the world through his seed.
 - (1) The seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Genesis 22:18
 - v) When Issac was offered on Mount Moriah, that was a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - (1) Genesis 22:1-14
 - vi) In Exodus 12, the Passover lamb is Jesus.
 - (1) Christ our Passover lamb was sacrificed for us.
 - vii) The offerings in the book of Leviticus were all about Jesus Christ.
 - (1) In the ritual of the scapegoat, they would take two goats.
 - (a) One goat would be pure, and it would be slain.

- (i) That pictured Jesus dying for our sins.
- (b) They would take another goat, and the priest would lay his hands on the head of that goat and confess the sins of the people.
 - (i) That goat would be led away into the wilderness never to return again.
 - 1. This pictured Jesus carrying our sins away.
- (2) They would take a mourning dove (turtle dove) with its sad mourning song, and sacrifice it.
 - (a) This spoke of Jesus Christ, the Man of Sorrows.
- (3) They would take a white pigeon and sacrifice it.
 - (a) This spoke of the Lord Jesus; the pure, gentle, and sinless Son of God.
- (4) The fine flour of the meal offering pictured the Lord Jesus bruised, beaten, and baked by the fires of Hell for us.
 - (a) The flour was anointed with oil, which pictured the anointing of the Holy Spirit that was upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (b) Frankincense was mixed in, which spoke of the intercessory prayers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- viii) The tabernacle was about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) The acacia wood spoke of the humanity of Jesus.
 - (2) The wood was overlaid with gold, which spoke of the deity of Jesus.
 - (3) It had badger skins on the outside, which said that from the outside, it was not beautiful.
 - (a) Isaiah 53:2
 - (4) But on the inside was fine gold and fine, twisted linen.
 - (5) There was scarlet, blue, and purple in the veil.
 - (a) The veil spoke of the body of the Lord Jesus.
 - (6) The brazen altar spoke of Christ our sacrifice.
 - (a) This was where the sacrifices were made.
 - (7) The laver spoke of Christ our sanctification.
 - (8) The table of the shewbread spoke of Christ our sustenance.
 - (9) The candlestick spoke of Christ our sight.
 - (10) The altar of incense spoke of Christ our supplication.
 - (11) In the Holy of Holies, the mercy seat where the blood was sprinkled spoke of Christ the satisfaction for the sinner's sin.
 - (12) Every priest in the Old Testament pictured the Lord Jesus our High Priest, who intercedes for His people and makes intercession for us.
- ix) In Psalm 2, the Psalmist speaks of the very Son of God and how the kings and rulers of this world don't want anything to do with Him.
 - (1) How true that is today.
- x) Psalm 22 reads like a person standing at the foot of the cross.
 - (1) It was written centuries before Jesus Christ was born.
- xi) Isaiah 53 is the Gospel according to Isaiah.

- xii) The book of Micah tells us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
 - (1) Micah 5:2
 - xiii) The book of Zechariah tells us that they pierced the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) It says that He is coming again.
 - xiv) The book of Malachi prophesies that John the Baptist shall come.
 - e) All of the Old Testament is about Jesus.
 - i) Acts 10:43
 - ii) This is a testimony to the unity and inspiration of the Bible.
 - (1) No man could write a book like this.
 - f) The Bible was written over a time span of fifteen hundred years, with forty different authors, in three different languages, and by people from all walks of life.
 - i) And to Jesus, give all the prophets witness.
 - g) There are not several different plans of salvation in the Bible.
 - i) Don't get the idea that people in the Old Testament were saved one way, and people in the New Testament were saved another way.
 - h) The message of the prophets is that Jesus saves.
 - i) When God made coats of skin for Adam and Eve, this was saying that Jesus saves.
 - ii) When Abel slew the lamb, this was saying that Jesus saves.
 - iii) When Isaac was offered on Mount Moriah, the message was that Jesus saves.
 - iv) The message of the Passover lamb is that Jesus saves.
 - v) The book of Ruth speaks of Ruth's kinsman redeemer.
 - (1) The message is that Jesus saves.
 - vi) When Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, this was saying that Jesus saves.
 - (1) Numbers 21:4-9
 - vii) Jesus said that Abraham saw His day and was glad.
 - (1) John 8:56
 - (2) The Gospel was preached unto Abraham.
 - (a) Galatians 3:8
 - i) There has never been but one plan of salvation, and it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) People in the Old Testament were saved by looking forward to Jesus.
 - ii) We are saved by looking backward to what Jesus did.
 - iii) We are all saved by looking upward to the Lord who lived then and lives now and is the Savior of the world.
- 4) THE PRAISE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT (ACTS 10:44-48)
- a) In verse 46, "magnify God" means to praise God.
 - i) This is the praise witness of the Spirit.

- b) Peter gave the first witness, the Scripture gave the second witness, and now the Holy Spirit gives the third witness.
- c) Acts 10:43
 - i) Peter told Cornelius that we are saved by believing in Jesus.
 - (1) Salvation is by grace.
 - ii) Cornelius' heart was hungry.
 - (1) Peter didn't have to talk him into anything.
 - (2) He wanted to be saved, and he just believed.
- d) When Cornelius believed, he immediately received the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.
 - i) Tongues are foreign languages that one hasn't learned.
 - ii) It was a sign gift that God gave in those days.
- e) God gave Cornelius the sign gift of tongues because He was enlarging the church to include the Gentiles.
 - i) The story of Cornelius is about the Gentiles being added to the church.
 - (1) The Jewish people and the Gentiles were becoming one body.
 - ii) The first time we see speaking in tongues was on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out.
 - (1) This was the Jewish Pentecost.
 - (2) Acts 2:1-4
 - iii) In Acts 10:44-46, we have the Gentile Pentecost.
 - (1) The same God who saved Peter had now saved Cornelius.
 - (2) The same sign God gave to Peter, God now gave to Cornelius.
- f) Tongues are a sign to confirm what God is doing.
 - i) The important thing was not the speaking in tongues.
 - (1) This was the outward evidence of the internal work of God in the hearts of the people.
 - ii) The amazing thing was that God was giving the Holy Spirit to live within the hearts of men.
 - iii) Tongues issued in an inaugural sign showing that God had worked in the heart of Cornelius.
- g) When we believe in Jesus, God gives a witness.
 - i) 1 John 5:9
 - ii) Romans 8:16
- h) The Holy Spirit of God inside of us (those who are saved) says that Jesus is Lord.
 - i) We are to praise Him.
 - (1) They began to magnify God as they believed.
 - ii) As they believed, they had that internal testimony.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Faith is rooted in evidence.
- b) Faith goes beyond evidence.
 - i) It has to in order to be faith.

- c) Then, faith becomes its own best evidence.
 - i) You believe because you believe.
 - ii) You know because you know.
- d) Romans 8:16
 - i) Do you have that internal evidence?
- e) Is the Lord Jesus Christ to you a bright and living reality?
 - i) This is not speaking of an emotional feeling.
- f) How does God know something?
 - i) God doesn't know something because He feels it emotionally.
 - ii) God doesn't know something because someone tells Him.
 - iii) God doesn't have to figure anything out.
 - (1) He just automatically knows.
 - (a) He knows because He knows.
- g) How do you know that you know God?
 - i) It is not because you feel it.
 - ii) It is not because you learned it or someone else tells you.
 - iii) It is because God's Spirit bears witness with your spirit.
 - (1) You just know that you know.
 - (2) Romans 8:16
- h) There is the witness of the saints, the witness of the Scripture, and the witness of the Spirit.
 - i) Ecclesiastes 4:12
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16