

## WHAT THE APOSTLES SAID ABOUT JESUS

Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses world-wide. Through extensive preaching in their day, and the legacy of Scripture that has been preserved to our day, they have left their unique testimony for all. Wherever they went they preached Jesus as Lord and themselves as servants of the church for Christ's sake.

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*"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."* II Corinthians 4:5

*"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."* Acts 5:42

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Apostle Paul's first message after his conversion was the person of Jesus. When he went to Corinth he determined to preach nothing but the crucified Jesus.

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*"Immediately he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."* Acts 9:20

*"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* I Corinthians 2:2

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This Christ-oriented apostolic message was the center piece of the early church.

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*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."* Acts. 2:42

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The very essence of the Gospel is the story and the unfolding of the person of Jesus. That is where it begins and that is where it ends, in Him.

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*"Moreover brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* I Corinthians 15:1-4

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Notice some of the comments the apostles made concerning Jesus:

PETER'S TESTIMONY:

*"..He is both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36*  
*"He is the Prince of Life." Acts 3:15*  
*"He is the chief cornerstone." Acts 4:11*  
*"Only through His name can salvation be found." Acts 4:12*  
*"He is the judge of the living and the dead." Acts 10:42*  
*"He is the theme of the Old Testament prophets." Acts 10:43*

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

*"God was in Christ." II Corinthians 5:19*  
*"He is the Head of everything." Ephesians 1:22*  
*"He is the image of the invisible God." Colossians 1:15*  
*"The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him." Colossians 2:9*  
*"He is the only mediator between God and man." I Timothy 2:5*  
*"He is God manifest in the flesh." I Timothy 3:16*  
*"He is glory and expressed image of God's person." Hebrews 1:3*

JOHN'S TESTIMONY:

*"He was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1*

The message of Jesus through the apostles was the sure foundation of the church. Jesus gave a wavering man named Simon a surname, Peter or Petros, which means a piece of a larger stone. Jesus referred to this new name after Peter had made a good confession concerning who Jesus was. The church would be built upon the large stone, Petra, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Peter, Petros, represented the confessors of this truth. They would be come living stones upon which the kingdom of God would be built.

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*"Simon Peter answered and said, ' You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*  
Matthew 16:16-18

*"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." I Peter 2:4,5*

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