

Those Signs Follow

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 16:19-20.

B. There is some doubt as to whether these verses belong in the biblical text--the best Greek manuscripts do not have it even though early church fathers quote it.

C. The gospel is something to be believed, and it is something to change our lives.

II. When the women and the other disciples first heard the story of Jesus' resurrection, they did not believe it--a climate of persistent unbelief was prevalent after Jesus' resurrection.

A. Jesus Himself expected the disciples to believe before He saw them.

B. Jesus taught that those who believe in His resurrection are blessed when they have not seen Him.

C. When we have trustworthy witnesses with regard to something, we are expected to believe.

III. The Great Commission.

A. The gospel is to be preached while one is going somewhere.

B. The good news is that Jesus died and rose again, for in the death of Jesus, there is the solution to the problem of human evil and in the resurrection, Jesus Himself will live within the believer.

C. Men need only to believe to be saved.

1. Belief ought to be real and demonstrable.

2. Baptism demonstrates belief.

3. "Saved" has taken on a negative connotation, but when one experiences it, he will realize that this is the only word that can be used.

4. One can only be saved by first realizing that he is lost.

D. The signs that will accompany those who believe.

1. Power to set free from demonic influence.

2. Power to praise God in a new language. (I Corinthians 12, 14)

3. Power to survive physical attacks on their lives.

4. Power to heal.

5. These were the authenticating signs of an Apostle who were to lay the foundation of the church. (Hebrews 2, Ephesians 2)

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship between belief in the resurrection and the Great Commission?

2. Why must one realize he is lost to be saved?

3. Why were authenticating signs important for the first believers—especially the Apostles?
