

The Eight Sermons of the Kerygma in Acts

Acts 2:14-36 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15**These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! **16**No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17**“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. **18**Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **19**I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. **20**The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **21**And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ **22**“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. **23**This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^d put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **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. **25**David said about him: “‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **26**Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, **27**because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. **28**You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’ **29**“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30**But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31**Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,^f that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. **32**God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. **33**Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. **34**For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “‘Sit at my right hand **35**until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’” **36**“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Acts 3:12-26 - When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. **14**You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. **15**You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. **16**By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. **17**“Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. **18**But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ^a would suffer. **19**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, **20**and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. **21**He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore

everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. **22**For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. **23**Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’ **24**“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. **25**And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’^c **26**When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

Acts 4:8-12 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9**If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, **10**then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11**He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. **12**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 5:29-32 - Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! **30**The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. **31**God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. **32**We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Acts 10:34-43 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35**but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. **36**You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37**You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. **39**“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, **40**but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41**He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Acts 13:16-41 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! **17**The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, **18**he endured their conduct^a for about forty years in the desert, **19**he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. **20**All this took about 450 years. “After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. **21**Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. **22**After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

23“From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. **24**Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. **25**As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’ **26**“Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. **27**The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. **28**Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. **29**When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. **30**But God raised him from the dead, **31**and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. **32**“We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers **33**he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father. **34**The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’ **35**So it is stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’ **36**“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. **37**But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. **38**“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. **39**Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. **40**Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: **41**“‘Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.’”

Acts 14:15-17 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: **15**“Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. **16**In the past, he let all nations go their own way. **17**Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

Acts 17:22-31 - Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. **23**For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. **24**“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. **25**And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. **26**From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **27**God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. **28**‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ **29**“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man’s design and skill. **30**In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **31**For he has set a day when he will

judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

The ancient *kerygma* as summarized by Dodd from Peter's speeches in Acts was:

1. The Age of Fulfillment has dawned, the "latter days" foretold by the prophets.
2. This has taken place through the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. By virtue of the resurrection Jesus has been exalted at the right hand of God as Messianic head of the new Israel.
4. The Holy Spirit in the church is the sign of Christ's present power and glory.
5. The Messianic Age will reach its consummation in the return of Christ.
6. A appeal is made for repentance with the offer of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, and salvation.

Christ, of course, was the center of this ancient *kerygma*. The cross and resurrection are crucial to the kerygmatic preaching of Christ.