

Foreword

Our course in Apostolic History will cover the history of Christianity in the Apostolic Age. This period takes us from the year A.D. 30 to the close of the first century. The primary sources for this important history are the Book of Acts, the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. Since there is a great amount of material to be covered, it will be necessary to limit class discussion to a minimum. If there are questions pertaining to the subject considered, such questions may be written out and handed in each class period. In the event some point has not been made clear or sufficient evidence has not been presented to support an opinion or a view expressed, it will be appreciated if this matter is called to the attention of the instructor by such a note.

The Resurrection of Jesus

We begin our course with a study of the resurrection of Jesus. This is a fundamental doctrine which lies at the foundation of the Christian Church. If there had been no such fact as the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would not have been the institution known as the Christian Church. The resurrection of Jesus is extremely important both as a historical fact and a historical message.

At the time of Jesus' death His disciples were sad and discouraged. Their leader had been crucified. The One whom they had followed for three years had gone. They had hoped that it was He who would have redeemed Israel. They were fully expecting Him to overthrow the Romans and set them free from such a terrible yoke of oppression. Now that He is dead their hopes are gone.

However, we note that within a short period of time these same disciples are leading a movement which was destined to have a glorious and wonderful history. They were no longer sad and discouraged, but