



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ESSENCE OF THE CHURCH

Sermon notes from 1/07/07

Acts 1:1-11

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Overview

As Luke states in Acts 1:1, his gospel tells of all that Jesus began to do and teach and Acts is not so much the story of what the apostles did (as we often think), but rather the continuing story of what Christ was doing and teaching. As we study Acts, we will see that it is truly the story of the acts of Christ by his Spirit through the apostles (and the church).. The first chapter of the book particularly introduces this theme that God is still active in history through his chosen agent—the church.

Text

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

What is the Essence of the church?

Message

I. The promise of the power
that we have received the Holy Spirit

II. The purpose
that we are called to be his witnesses

III. The period
that we are to continue until he returns