

Sermon Outline: 12.15.19

Sermon Series: **The Case for Christ: Why I Believe in Jesus**
Sermon Title: **(3) *The Historic Testimony***
Sermon Text: Acts 17:1-7

The Case for Christ:
Why I Believe in Jesus
The Prophetic Testimony
The Eyewitness Testimony
The Historical Testimony

(Acts 17:1-7)

The Historic Testimony of Jesus Christ

- #1 - *Explosion of Converts*
- #2 - *Change in the Day of Worship*
- #3 - *Tool of Execution Becomes a Symbol of Hope*
- #4 - *Influence on the Roman Empire*
- #5 - *Cultural Influences*
- #6 - *Founding & Fabric of the U.S.A.*
(Insert Quote #1)
- #7 - *Popularity of the Holy Bible*
(Insert Quote #2)

(Insert Quote #3)

(Insert Quote #4, *one paragraph/segment at a time*)

(Insert Quote #5)

(Quote #1)

Harvard College Founding Statement:

"Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life."

(Quote #2)

Time Magazine, March 2007:

"The Bible has done more to shape literature, history, entertainment, and culture than any book ever written. Its influence on world history is unparalleled, and shows no signs of abating."

(Quote #3)

Yale historian, Jeroslav Pelikan:

"Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western Culture for almost 20 centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left?"

(Quote #4. Each paragraph/segment is marked with a bullet point. Try to put each one up as I read it, preferably without the bullet point.)

The Incomparable Christ:

- “More than 1900 years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity.
- He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.
- He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education.
- In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.
- He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.
- He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.
- He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.
- He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.
- He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.
- He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.
- Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.
- The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone.
- The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more.
- Though time has spread 1900 years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives.
- Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.
- He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.”

(Quote #5)

One Solitary Life:

“...Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as has that One Solitary Life.”