

It was in this fact that Christianity acquired a firm basis for its historical development."

The resurrection of Jesus is not ~~an~~ only important as a historical fact but also as a historical message. <sup>^</sup> The proclamation of the gospel as good news included the event that Jesus arose from the dead. Such a message was not only believed by the followers of Jesus, but they preached it far and wide. Here was a message of triumph and victory! The message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was a transforming truth. The witness of the apostles to the resurrection faith under the Holy Spirit changed lives. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the preeminent truths of the gospel. The gospel is good news. It is not merely good advice. The Christian message is glad tidings of great joy. The gospel is the story of something that happened. That something is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These two great events are the very heart of the Christian message, and therefore they are ~~stressed~~ stressed as ~~the~~ primary truths by the apostles.

The message of the resurrection of Jesus was the keynote of the early apostolic preaching. The sermons of the apostles in the early days of the Church stressed the truth, "Christ is risen." In his memorable sermon to the Jews on the day of Pentecost Peter proclaims Jesus of Nazareth "whom God raised up, having loosed the pangs of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it." (Acts 2:24) Peter further points out that the resurrection of Jesus was predicted by David centuries before in the sixteenth Psalm. The words of Psalm 16:10 are <sup>quoted</sup> ~~used~~ by the apostle Peter as a prediction <sup>of</sup> that the <sup>Lord's</sup> ~~Messiah~~ <sup>Anointed</sup>  ~~Messiah~~ would rise from the dead. After citing this Psalm and stating its significance regarding the resurrection of the Messiah, Peter says, "This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses." (Acts 2:32) So Peter demonstrates very clearly that Jesus was the Messiah by virtue of the resurrection from the dead.