

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

TEXT: "And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today" (Luke 5:26).

INTRODUCTION:

1. This statement describes the distinctiveness of Jesus.
2. "His life from his birth to his ascension was marked by wonders, surprises, and amazements. It was distinctive" (Franklin Camp).
3. Astonishment was often felt by those who saw and heard the Savior (cf. Matthew 7:28-29; 19:25; Luke 2:48; 4:22; John 4:27; etc.).
4. In like manner, those who follow the Lord must be distinctive just as He was...

I. THE POWER OF DISTINCTIVENESS

- A. Jesus asked His disciples, "What do ye more than others?" (Matthew 5:47).
 1. He did not want them to do less than others.
 2. He was not satisfied if they did the same as others.
 3. He expected them to do more than others!
- B. "The power of the church is not where it is like other religions, but where it is unlike them. It is in its distinctiveness that it asserts its real influence."
- C. What does the church of today do more than others?
 1. Does the church teach more truth?
 2. Does the church knock on more doors?
 3. Does the church offer more comfort?
 4. Does the church help more people?
 5. Does the church inspire more enthusiasm?
 6. Does the church provide more strength?
 7. Does the church elevate more morals?
- D. If we are not doing more than others, can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus or the church of Christ?

II. THE PICTURE OF DISTINCTIVENESS

- A. The church is distinctive in its message (Galatians 1:1, 6-12).
- B. The church is distinctive in its honesty (James 1:23-25; Philippians 3:13-14).
- C. The church is distinctive in its values (Philippians 3:4-11).
- D. The church is distinctive in its impartiality (Hebrews 2:9; James 2:1).
- E. The church is distinctive in its love (Luke 6:27; John 13:35; 2 Corinthians 12:15)
- F. The church is distinctive in its joy (Acts 5:41; Colossians 1:24; 2 Cor. 12:10).

III. THE PRODUCT OF DISTINCTIVENESS

- A. Jesus is exalted (Acts 4:13).
- B. Men are drawn to Him (John 12:32-33).
- C. The church is strengthened.
- D. Heaven is gained (Revelation 2:10).