***Title: FIRSTFRUITS***

***Speaker: Robert Beasley***

1 Corinthians 15:20

 *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the* ***firstfruits*** *of those who have fallen asleep.*

John 16: 7

 *But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the* ***Paraclete******[Holy Spirit]****won’t come.*

John 16: 7, 13,14

*If I do go away, then I will send Him to you…. He will guide you into all truth… He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.*

Ephesians 3: 6

 *And this is God’s plan: Both Jews and Gentiles who believe in the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children.*

Ephesians 3:10

*God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  This was His eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Acts 1:4,5, 8

 *Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit….And you will be my witnesses…to the ends of the earth*.

PENTECOST—DAY OF “FIRST FRUITS”

Pentecost-Giving of law

Jeremiah 31:33

 *This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord.*

 *I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

Ezekiel 36:25-27

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Acts 2

 *When the day of Pentecost came, they (about 120) were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

*Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.*

 *When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.*

*Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”*

*Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:*

 *“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say…this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

 *‘In the last days, God says,*

 *I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams*.

 *Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’*

*Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.*

*This man was handed over to you* ***by God’s deliberate plan*** *and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

*But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

*God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.*

*Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.*

*Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.*

MESSIAH

ALL OF OLD TESTAMENT POINTING TO **JESUS**

1. **JESUS IS LORD!**

YAHWEH = LORD

JESUS = GOD

 Colossians 2:13-15

 *Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

“*At least five times the Faith has to all appearances gone to the dogs.  In each of these five cases, it was the dog that died.”*

-G.K. Chesterton

JESUS IS LORD!

 **2. God’s has given us His own Spirit to transform us.**

John 15:26; 16:14

*When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--he will testify about me.*

*He will bring glory to me, by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*

* **The Spirit opens our hearts to the powerful love of God**

Romans 5:5

*And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Ephesians 3:17-19

*I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

* **The Spirit changes us to be like Jesus**

Romans 8:29

*For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

***Love***

***Joy***

***Peace***

 ***Patience***

 ***Kindness***

 ***Goodness***

 ***Faithfulness***

 ***Gentleness***

 ***Self-control***

“The fruit of the Spirit…” (Gal. 5:22)

*“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”(Eph. 6:18)*

*“Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances.” (1 Thess. 5:17,18)*

 *“Set your minds on things the Spirit desires…”(Rom. 8:5)*

 *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom. 12:2)*

*“In [Jesus] you are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Eph. 2:22)*

**3. What you do with Jesus is the most important decision of your life.**

Acts 2:37-40

*Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”*

*Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”*

John 15: 5, 6

*If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers.*

Romans 8:23

*We who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

Ephesians 1:13, 14

*And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.*

 *The Spirit is God’s guarantee [arrabon] that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*