Proclamations of the Risen King

**The proclamations of King Jesus give His marching orders to the church.**

1. **His Proclamation of *Peace*** (19, 21)

John 14:27; 16:33

1. **His Proclamation of a *Purpose*** (21)

A. We are sent *as ambassadors*

John 13:20; 2 Corinthians 5:20

B. We are sent *into the world*

John 3:17; 15:16-19

C. We are sent *with a message*

John 7:16; 12:49; 17:8, 18; 20:30-31

1. **His Proclamation of *Pentecost*** (22)

A. The Spirit is the *breath* of God

Job 33:4

B. The Spirit gives the *power* of God

Acts 1:8; 2:32-33; John 7:37-39

1. **His Proclamation of *Pardon*** (23)

A. Observe the *practice* of the apostles

Acts 8:20-23; 13:9-11

B. Announce the *promise* of forgiveness

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. How do the peace of Jesus and the presence of the Spirit make it possible to fulfill the purpose He has set before us?

3. Can you explain the gospel in a few sentences and give an appropriate passage of Scripture or two to go along with your explanation? Every Christian should be able to do that.

3. Regarding John 20:23 consider the following:

The church has the authority to proclaim forgiveness to all who repent and believe in Christ. It has the authority to proclaim condemnation to those who refuse to come to Christ. This is what the apostles did. The church has no power to compel God to forgive or condemn on the basis of its own judgment.

Those who wish to claim the power of granting forgiveness do not normally go on to claim the power of withholding God’s forgiveness as indicated in the second half of the verse. If our word cannot send men to hell, neither can our word send them to heaven. The issue in this chapter is not temporal punishment of sin, but eternal life (John 20:31).

Nowhere in the New Testament do we find the apostles taking it upon themselves to forgive the sins of individual sinners as Jesus did (Mark 2:5). Occasionally, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they issue specific warnings to those who by their actions reveal that they are enemies of God.

The practice of requiring or offering payment for a spiritual blessing is an abomination in the sight of God (Acts 8:4-24; 1 Timothy 6:5).