

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 16-17, 2006

"Are There Miracle Workers in the Church Today?"

John 14:12

Where do we as Christians in the 21st century stand in respect to Christ's promise in John 14:12?

First of all, 21st century Christians should not expect their churches to be characterized by miraculous activity based on John 14:12.

21st century Christians should not expect their churches to be characterized by miraculous activity because the purpose for miracles in the 21st century no longer exists.

The purpose of miracles based on the biblical record was to confirm that a particular revelation was from God or that a particular messenger was speaking for God in a period of major transitional revelation.

The days of Moses and Joshua were the first period of major transitional revelation characterized by miraculous activity recorded for us in the Scriptures.

The way that the Jewish people were able to confirm that Moses was speaking for God, when he gave them the Law, was by the miracles he and Joshua performed.

The days of Elijah and Elisha were the second period of major transitional revelation characterized by miraculous activity recorded for us in the Scriptures.

The way that the Jewish people could confirm that Elijah and Elisha were speaking for God when they called them to repentance was by the miracles that they performed.

The days of Christ and the apostles was the third period of major transitional revelation characterized by miraculous activity recorded for us in the Scriptures.

The way that people confirmed that what Jesus and the apostles were telling them was true was through the miracles they performed (John 10:25, 20:30-31; Hebrews 2:1-3).

Miracles did not occur to simply display the power of God or bolster the faith of the faithless but primarily to confirm a major transitional revelation through His messengers.

Though 21st century Christians should not expect their lives to be characterized by miraculous work they should expect their lives to be characterized by the "greater works."

We are performing the greater works that Christ spoke of in John 14:21 when we do whatever we can to advance the cause of the gospel of Christ either directly or indirectly.

May God give us the grace to appreciate and value the opportunity that Christ has afforded us through His redemptive work to rescue the souls of men in this present age.