

## A Lesson in Ontological Theology

*Acts 2:22-37*

Peter's address to the witnesses of Pentecost stands as a model sermon for the communication of the Gospel. Its leading features are Peter's recital of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, an appeal for repentance, a promise of blessing, and most important a declaration of Jesus Christ as mankind's Savior and Israel's Messiah. Peter places the emphasis upon the life and character of Jesus Christ, not for biological reasons, but to flesh out his preaching with the all important truth that Jesus Christ was the cause, the focus, the function, and the finality of God's redemptive plan. With Jesus Christ as the central truth, Peter presents Him as being functional in nature rather than philosophical, and stresses His ultimate causality in the divine redemption of the world. Indispensable in Peter's preaching is the concept of Ontology (His nature of being) that explains the "how" and the "why" of Jesus Christ as God's Son as the "*man accredited*" (v. 22) and the One who "*death could not hold*" (v. 24). These facts lead to Peter's final declaration that we "*know assuredly*" that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

***Know assuredly that... Jesus is both Lord and Christ...***

(1) The Facts... "Knowing"  
vs. 30, 36

(2) The Faith ... I rest in Hope  
vs. 26

(3) The Feeling... I joy in your presence  
vs. 28