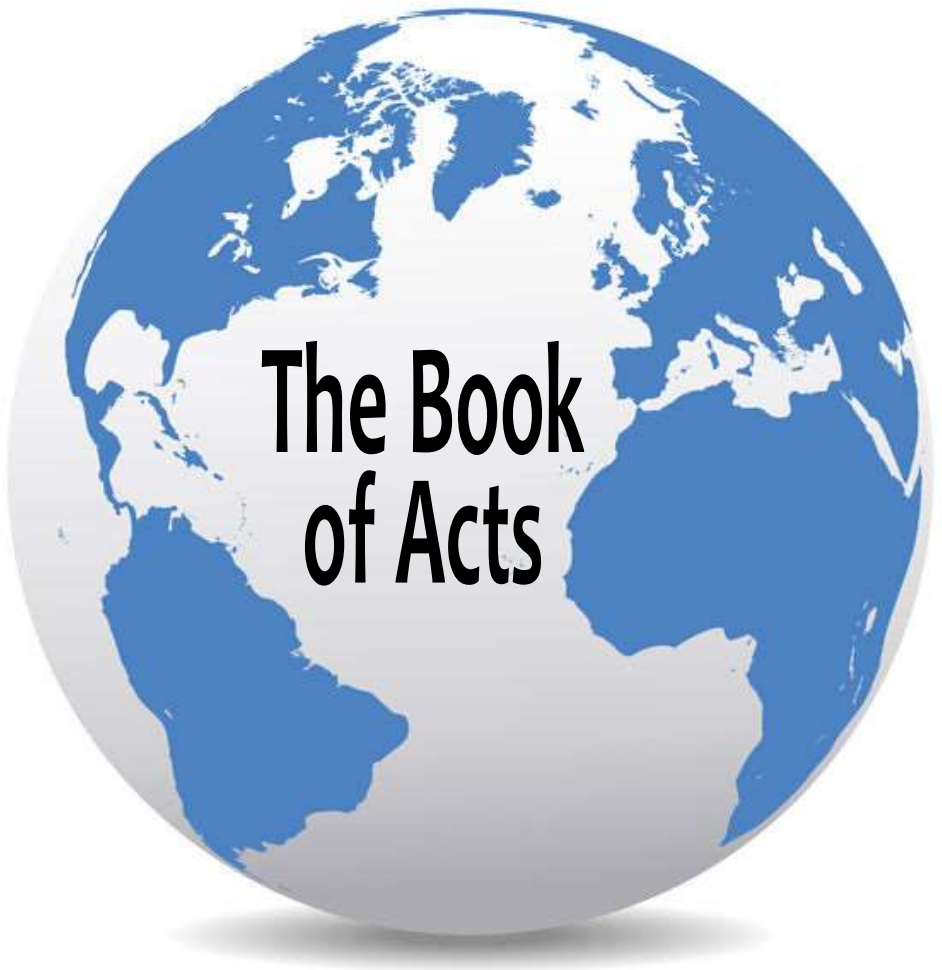


Let's Worship God

2nd-7th April 2018
Acts



The Book of Acts



The Book of ACTS

Monday - Acts 22:1-22 - Paul's Conversion

"It is not fit that he should live" (v. 22). Efforts to avoid unnecessary offence will not save us from causing necessary offence. Paul used great skill in speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem. He spoke in Hebrew, assures them he is a Jew and understands their position having been trained even under the famous Gamaliel. He had thought himself on the right track and that those who professed Jesus of Nazareth ('this way' v.4) were heretics deserving punishment. He stresses the role of Ananias, a respected Jew, whom he reports as speaking of 'the God of our fathers' (vs.12-14). In relating not only his conversion, but also his call to be an apostle of Christ, he stresses his own past guilt, even in the death of Stephen. The outcome is that they cry out for his blood as one not fit to be left alive on the face of the earth.

Questions

1. How do our ideas about a tactful, right time to evangelize measure up to Paul's practice?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."
Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 44:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Acts 22:23-30 - Not Above His Master

Let us not think that if only we get the 'seeker-sensitive' package worked out, no one will take offence. Christ went about doing good, but He was crucified and slain. The disciple is not above his master. We must be ready to bear the reproach of Christ. His Gospel is offensive to fallen man. Indeed, because it is the truth and the message that most consistently contradicts the pride of man, it is the most offensive message there could be. Let us not be discouraged then, if offence is taken to our loyalty to Christ and testimony to His truth; it does not have to mean we did it all wrong.

Now Paul is set on course for a series of court appearances that would lead him, via much travel and a shipwreck, to Rome. Most of us struggle with delays. We want difficult things over and done with, so that we can get back to 'normal'. It was not to be like that for Paul. He was to exercise his ministry for Christ amidst all the uncertainties of being 'the prisoner of the Lord'. He preached, wrote epistles to churches and prayed without ceasing while a prisoner. The care of all the churches was upon him still. We must not postpone some aspect of our service to Christ because our circumstances seem less settled than we would like.

Questions

1. Why was Paul's message of grace offensive?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful in serving Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."
Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 44:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Wednesday - Acts 23:1-22 - A Promise and a Plot

God does not always save His servants from death as we noticed regarding James (12:2). But He is always able as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said so firmly (Daniel 3:16-18). And when He has promised, He will also perform. He gives His people grace for the crisis or deliverance from it. When the time came, Paul was certainly ready (2 Timothy 4:6). "Shall he not with him freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Questions

1. Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those Christians who are suffering persecution.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."
Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 3:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Thursday - Acts 23:23-35 - Paul Sent To Felix

Paul was to bear witness at Rome. The Lord had said so (v. 11). But could He bring it to pass? Paul's enemies, who wanted to kill him, were filled with a truly formidable religious zeal. But the Lord was mightier by far. His providence extends to all His creatures and all their actions. Even the devices of the wicked are hemmed in by Him and His plan. They only do exactly what He allows (Psalm 76:10). Here, the Lord used Paul's nephew, Paul's own use of "lawful endeavours to preserve our own lives and the lives of others" (Westminster Shorter Catechism Answer 68), and He also used the immense effort of Claudius Lysias. The latter also wrote a letter to Felix in which he passes over the slip-up over binding a Roman citizen. Judea was now part of the larger Roman province of Syria under a proconsul and then more local governors or propraetors, of which Felix was one, living in the Roman capitol of Judaea which was Caesarea. History records that Felix was an unscrupulous and greedy man. Herod's Judgment Hall was now in use by these local deputies (v.35). Paul was on his way to Rome!

Questions

1. Is there not some unbelief in our responses to God-given circumstance?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would trust in the Lord's care.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 4:5-7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Friday - Acts 24:1-20 - Paul Before Felix

Felix trembled (v.25). Heresy or development? Is the New Testament church an unwarranted departure from Old Testament religion or the true continuation of it? The Jews called Christianity a heresy (v.14), but Paul shows it to be a result of God's unfolding of His revelation by speaking "in these last days by his Son" (Heb.1:2) and that far from denying the Scriptures, he believed "all things which are written in the law and in the prophets." Later on, Felix heard Paul again "concerning the faith in Christ" (v.24), perhaps because Drusila, his Jewish wife, wanted to hear more about this strange sect.

Paul spoke of righteousness and temperance - of God's standards and of the restrained and right way of responding to our physical appetites and desires. He also spoke of judgment to come, when God will vindicate His own standards, by punishing forever all unforgiven violation of those standards in thought, word and deed. All of this was calculated to show Felix his need of the Saviour of sinners, Jesus Christ. He trembles, but did he change? He was concerned, but did he turn to the Lord? His conscience was troubled, but did he learn to hate sin and not just fear the consequences of it? He felt a sense of guilt, but did he seek the Saviour of the guilty? No, he did not.

Questions

1. What is the difference between conviction and conversion?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the conversion of the men and women who live around us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."
Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 51A:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Acts 24:22-27 - Conviction Without Conversion

Felix's love of money was not changed as he still hoped for a bribe from Paul (v.26). He kept the Jews quiet by keeping Paul under house-arrest. Then he passed on the 'problem' to Festus, his successor in office. No doubt his sense of sin subsided, but his guilt before God only increased.

In the Bible, Pharaoh, King Saul, and Judas all said, "I have sinned", but they did not turn from their sins to the Lord. David, like the prodigal son in the parable, also said, 'I have sinned' and sought the Lord's mercy. "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Psalm 32:5).

Questions

1. What about you? Are you convicted of your sin? Have you gone to the Lord with the one thing that is truly your own - your sin? Never mind "a more convenient season" (v.25), it is time to seek the Lord. "Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart" (Psalm 95:7-8).

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." Acts 23:11

Praise: Psalm 51A:5-9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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