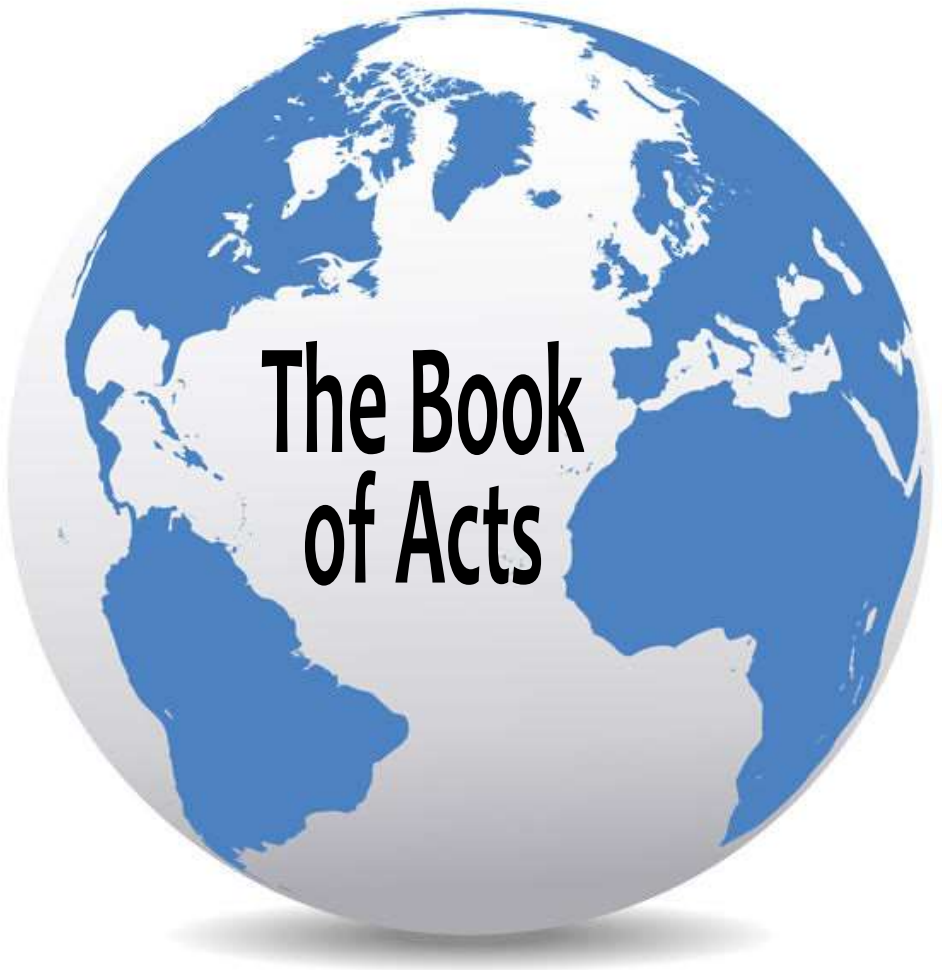


Let's Worship God

16th-21st April 2018
Acts



**The Book
of Acts**



The Book of ACTS

Monday - Acts 27:1-12 - Paul Sails for Rome

Paul believed God (v, 25). What is immediately before our eyes does not tell us the mind of God. If we desire to know what we should do, we must look at God's precepts in Scripture. If we want to know what God will bring to pass, we must look to God's promises and prophesies in Scripture. As an apostle, however, Paul received revelation from the Lord by means of an angel. The angel told Paul two things; that he must appear before Caesar and that the lives of all on the ship would be spared (v.24). "Accidental death" is not outside the government of God. He controls who lives and who dies in any shipwreck or in any other accident or tragedy. When such things come, we may be utterly bewildered as to why a particular life was brought to an end in an apparently arbitrary way. Nevertheless, it is a comfort to bereaved believers to know that the ultimate cause is not 'chance' or 'luck', but our faithful God and Father in Heaven. In this case, however, Paul was promised otherwise.

Questions

1. Does God's control extend to everything?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.” Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 56:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Tuesday - Acts 27:13-26 - Believing God

God's providence can, for a time, seem to be going against His promises. "God is to be trusted when his providences seem to run contrary to his promises... God promised Paul the lives of all that were with him in the ship; but the providence of God seemed to run quite contrary to his promise, for the winds blew, the ship split and broke in pieces. Thus God fulfilled his promise; upon the broken pieces of the ship they all came safe to shore. Trust God when providences seem to run quite contrary to promises." (Thomas Watson). God, in His providence, even restrained the soldiers from killing the prisoners including Paul (v.42-43). What is also noticeable is Paul's boldness of speech in acknowledging the Lord throughout. We need such boldness! Too often, we settle for lowest common denominator speech with the world and end up conversing like atheists.

Above all, we must, unlike Eve in the Garden of Eden, believe God in all that He has said concerning this life and that which is to come. In the end, what else is there? We know whom we have believed (2 Timothy 1:12).

Questions

1. What is the "shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16)?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would believe God in all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 56:5-9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Wednesday - Acts 27:27-44 - The Shipwreck

God's sovereignty did not affect their responsibility to stay in the ship (vs. 30-31). The shipmen's plan was stopped and the lifeboat let go. Even the soldiers' plan to save their honour, as they thought, by killing the prisoners (vs. 42-43) was brought to nothing by the regard that he had for Paul (compare Daniel 1:9). Paul was right to believe God, and they all reached land (v. 44) as God had said. He hadn't promised that all the goods would be saved, and they weren't. Paul didn't put words in God's mouth. The God that cannot lie (Titus 1:2) did exactly what He said. And Paul would indeed reach Rome. The very wind and waves obey the Lord.

But look at the Apostle in the midst of it all giving thanks (v. 35)! He did so publicly and in full confidence that God would fulfil His word. He was not ashamed of the Gospel or of his God (compare Daniel 6:10). His heart was fixed, trusting in the Lord and His providence.

Questions

1. Do we trust the Lord as the one who does all things for us?
2. Do we trust Him to do all things well?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would grow in your trust in the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.” Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 107:18-22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Thursday - Acts 28:1-11 - The Gospel in Malta

They reached the island of Malta. Here they were shown much kindness and hospitality for six months. God shows non-saving mercies to all men as well as saving mercy to His elect. One of these mercies shown to all (often called "common grace") is the restraint of sin so that natural affection shows itself. "Such as willingly delight not in blindness may clearly see that the Holy Ghost maketh a plain difference betwixt the graces and mercies which are common to all, and that sovereign mercy which is immutably reserved for the chosen children"(John Knox).

What this "common grace" did not do was deliver them from their paganism and superstition (vs. 3-6) nor give them a heart for the living God. Only the saving grace of God could do that. Even the kind people of Malta needed to be "born again" to see the kingdom of God. So do you if you are not already.

Questions

1. What is the difference between "common" and "saving" grace?
2. Does the later only accompany the preaching of the Gospel?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the grace that God has given you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 50:18-21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Friday - Acts 28:12-16 - Paul Arrives at Rome

God preserved Paul from the viper (v.2) as well as on the seas. He had said he must testify at Rome (23:11), and so it must be. On the final journey to the capital of the empire, some of the brethren from Rome came to meet his and accompany him. We read these touching words "... whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage." (v.15). There is a fellowship among the heirs of the kingdom that the world does not understand - that immediate sense of a bond when one meets the Lord's people in the midst of an unbelieving world. Paul did not hold aloof from the joys of Christian fellowship nor was he unwilling to openly acknowledge it as a blessing from God and a means of strengthening to him. It is a wrong kind of independence of man that makes us otherwise - one that comes from pride, not great faith.

Questions

1. How can we fellowship more with other believers?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 22:21-25 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Saturday - Acts 28:17-31 - Conflict and the Continuing Work of the Kingdom

In his dealings with his countrymen in Rome, Paul is both tactful and honest about what had happened at Jerusalem. He proclaims the Lord Jesus as Israel's promised Messiah, and this meets with considerable opposition. He declares them to be like the people of Isaiah's day and under judicial blindness and that the Gentiles will receive that Gospel which they now despise. He then spent two years preaching to all who came to hear. His message was the kingdom of God and the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. These are two descriptions of the same thing. Christ is the king over all in His power, but His kingdom of grace is His bringing sinners into hearty subjection to Himself through the Gospel.

Christians today are citizens of that kingdom too and bear witness to that same message and the church's ministers are to publicly proclaim it also. If Paul was faithful even as a prisoner waiting in pagan Rome to appear before a wicked emperor, shall we not do what is in our power in the 21st Century to uphold the name and honour of the Lord of Glory in the midst of this evil generation? Will you not risk your reputation and popularity for His name's sake? Be ashamed to be ashamed of Him! "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Christ shall reign till all His enemies are made His footstool, either in grace and willingly through the Gospel, or in horror and constraint in His wrath (Philippians 2:1-11; Isaiah 45:23). God will vindicate His Saviourhood and His Lordship in Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Do we see ourselves as the continuing Church from the Book of Acts with Christ our king doing and teaching from the right hand of God, vindicating the rule of God?

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

"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Acts 27:25

Praise: Psalm 102A:14-20 - 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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