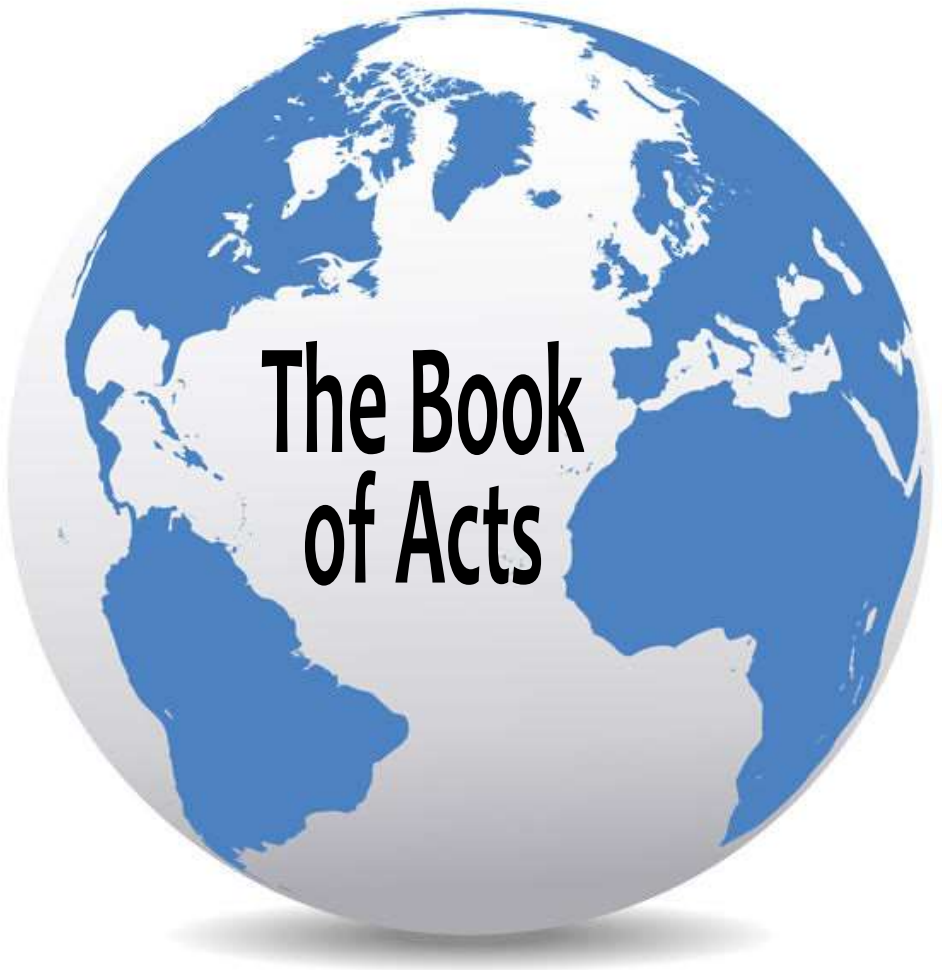


Let's Worship God

5th-10th February 2018
Acts



**The Book
of Acts**



The Book of ACTS

Monday - Acts 3 - The Name of Jesus Christ

The miracles in Scripture do not appear at random as meaningless displays of God's power. They are called 'miracles' or 'powers' because they display the power of God and 'wonders' because of the reaction they cause among men. But they are also called 'signs' because they have meaning and significance. Sometimes that meaning is very specific, as when the Lord Jesus fed the five thousand showing Himself to be the bread of life or gave sight to the blind as being the light of the world. More generally, however, the miracles were signs that God was speaking through His inspired spokesmen. The miraculous gifts exercised by apostles and also conveyed to others through the apostles were signs of apostles (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4). The Old Testament prophets spoke in the name of Jehovah and performed signs (Deuteronomy 30:10-12; 2 Kings 18:36, Psalm 74:9). The Lord Jesus, as God manifest in the flesh, spoke and healed in His own name ('verily, verily, I say unto you...'). Here, Peter performs this miracle in the name of Jesus Christ.

This use of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is full of meaning. It was 'the historical Jesus' who grew up in Nazareth and yet He is also the God-man Mediator who sits at God's right hand with all power in Heaven and earth. He who came as the servant of Jehovah is Himself Jehovah. He is the Lord of glory.

Notice how Peter announced in advance that something was going to take place that only God could do - 'such as I have give I thee... rise up and walk'. This showed that he was a recipient of direct revelation from God. Many of the Biblical miracles involved this inspired pre-knowledge as samples of infallible knowledge.

Christ gave this man more than silver and gold through Peter. But these miraculous reversals of some effects of God's curse on fallen man in sickness and death point to Christ as the one who can save from sin itself and give everlasting salvation. Peter, therefore, tells the crowd, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted... (v.19). We do not have apostles today, but we have the whole Bible. In our Bibles we have the truth of God and the record of miracles that accompanied the revelation of God's Word (John 20:30-31).

Questions

1. Are we making good use of what we have been given?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the Word of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 31:6-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Tuesday - Acts 3:12-26 - The Right Response

As the people started running together, Peter preached the Gospel to them. The miracles were always signs, never random. They pointed to the Lord Jesus as the Saviour. The miracle was done in His name.

It was not done because of their own power or holiness. Nor were they introducing some novelty religion. The God of the Old Testament had sent His Son to be the Saviour. Israel had crucified none other than the Lord of glory. Often, Christ and His disciples used the Law to awaken to a sense of sin and need of Christ (Mark 10:19; John 4:17-18; Romans 3:20), but here it is the fact that they had even crucified the Prince of life Himself! This was the plan of God (v.18), but the sin was theirs.

They must repent (v.19). To "repent" means to "change our minds", to turn around from all our sins - from all our desire to be independent of God and take His rights over us from Him (Genesis 3:5) and, as sinners, depend upon His appointed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we are utterly unprepared to meet God. We are guilty sinners in the sight of God. But Christ can save the greatest of sinners. Are you trusting in Him?

Questions

1. Why do we need a Divine Saviour?
2. Why do we need a perfect human Saviour?

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

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 89:18-23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Wednesday - Acts 4:1-22 - Examined for a Good Deed

The priests were 'grieved' (v.2) that Peter and John taught the people the message of the risen Christ. They could not deny the miracle, but threatened and commanded the apostles to preach no more (vs.17-18).

We learn the utter depravity of the human heart. The problem with these men was not lack of clarity or evidence. How easily we fall into the mistake of thinking that if we only present the Gospel in a sufficiently clear and well-argued manner, surely men and women will believe it - but no! A sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in the heart is needed before any sinner will be willing to trust in Christ. Our Lord Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

We also learn the power of the exalted Christ to build His church. The preachers were bound, but the Word of God was not bound and the number of believing men was now five thousand (v.4). How forlorn Peter and John had seemed when the Lord Jesus was crucified, but now they have been strengthened by the Spirit of Christ and their enemies marvelled and "took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus" (v.13). They declared openly the fact that the Jewish leaders had crucified the Christ of God (v.10). Christ is still at God's right hand and He can still give such boldness to His servants as He did, for example when, during the Reformation period in the sixteenth century, John Calvin withstood the enemies of the Gospel in Geneva when they came to church with swords at the ready!

Today, it is often particularly the exclusiveness of the Biblical Gospel that is deemed unacceptable in Western countries; our failure simply to say, 'Well, this works for me, but if something else suits you, that's ok'. Believing readers, this we can never do. Whether ministers in public proclamation or the individual Christian in his stand for Christ in the world, we need the power of the exalted Christ by His Holy Spirit to be able to say, "Neither is there salvation in any other..." (v.12).

Questions

1. Do others recognise us as having been with Jesus?
2. Are we ashamed of the exclusiveness of the Gospel?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be clear and bold in speaking for Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 72:12-16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Thursday - Acts 4:23-30 - 'Kiss the Son'

God answers prayer 'by terrible things in righteousness' (Psalm 65:5). It was so here - the place was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Ghost (v.17) and the boldness sought was given. This request for boldness (v.29) (not even safety!) for the ministers of the Word tells us something about true prayer.

They also used Scripture in prayer. We are told, 'take with you words' (Hosea 14:2) when we come to the Lord and what better words to take than His own? There is a danger, when leading in corporate prayer, of showing off, but that should not discourage the right use.

Psalm 2:1-2 is here applied to Herod and Pilate, not merely in their private conduct, but in their use of their position as civil rulers. This tells us that the later verses of the Psalm indicate not only what rulers should do in their personal lives, but also in their use of public office. They are to serve the Lord and to kiss the Son (Psalm 2:11-12). When Samuel anointed Saul as king, he kissed him in recognition of his authority (1 Samuel 10:1). Those who had kissed Baal were those who had bowed the knee to him (1 Kings 19:18). To kiss the Lord Jesus, in the context of the Psalm, is to acknowledge Christ's royal authority as 'the prince of the kings of the earth' (Revelation 1:5) by openly ruling according to His Word. This is what all political rulers are duty-bound to do. This is what the early Covenanters suffered for.

In fact, no human activity, including our family life and daily work, should be done independently of the Word of God. Every thought should be brought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). It must begin, however, in our hearts as individuals. Has your heart been captivated by the grace of Christ? Have you been made willing to rest upon the Crucified Saviour for acceptance with God. Has this happy submission to the Redeemer begun in you through the Gospel?

Questions

1. Should we advocate a distinctively Christian view of the State?
2. Is any activity legitimately done without being part of submission to Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would do all things to the glory of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 2:4-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Friday - Acts 4:31-37 - True Unity

The truth has been upheld, resisted, and upheld again. The Lord answers their prayers with fearful works, and the place shook, and the Word was preached with boldness (v. 31).

They were filled with the Spirit. This was true of all the people of God. The result of this grace upon them was a real unity. Although the apostles preached, they had the support of all the believers. They were united in heart and mind and this showed in their attitude to material things. True love to the Lord should affect our attitude towards money.

Modern attempts at organised, imposed unity, while indifference to the truth of God's Word prevails, is futile. The church is to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). The unity of the Spirit causes the love of the truth and "striving together for the faith of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:27). It is both doctrinal, experiential, and practical. The fragmented state of the Church today is caused partly by lack of shared submission to Christ the King and His Word.

Questions

1. If we are to avoid naiveté on the one hand and unbiblical indifference on the other, how are we to treat every saint in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:21)?
2. Who are we to treat as saints?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the unity of the church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 133B:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Saturday - Acts 5:1-16 - Judgement in the House of God

The truth of Christ was to be heralded in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and beyond (Acts 1:8), and Christ was fulfilling His promise to build His church. Initially, the continuing church was emerging from the corrupt Israelite Old Testament church shell, but soon the Gentile wild olive branches would start to be grafted into the church (Romans 11:17-24). Nevertheless, even the flourishing church after Pentecost was not free of hypocrites, who are mixed in the Church with the good, yet are not of the Church, though externally in it. But the Lord always sees and can bring the truth to light in this world if He pleases, even as He surely will in the world to come.

Ananias and Sapphira were not forced to give all the proceeds of the land-sale to the church (v.4). There was no communist regime operating in the apostolic church. Their sin lay in the pretence and falsehood. They wanted people to think well of them and were not acting out of love to the Lord. They were serving the creature - their own pride and the esteem of others - rather than the Creator. The Lord knew and judged even within the visible church. Ultimately, God will perfectly sift the professing church and the ungodly shall not stand in the congregation of the righteous. Even those pretenders who go unnoticed by others in the church will be exposed. The man without the wedding garment could not deceive the King (Matthew 22:11). Have you more than an outward form of Christianity that deceives even the minister and elders? The Lord knows.

In this case, the Lord judged by means of the apostles. Christ's miracles on earth were virtually all of a positive healing kind pointing to His having come to save sinners. After Christ's resurrection, most of the miracles through the apostles were also positive since they were to preach the message of salvation. This is one of a few exceptions. The pre-announcement of the Lord's revelation of what He was about to do is similar to that of the miracle in chapter 3, but the event foretold was negative. This reminds us that though we live in a time of Gospel-preaching, the Lord is coming to judgment.

Questions

1. Is the Church on earth always a mixture?
2. Will the Church in Heaven be mixed?

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

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Praise: Psalm 55:7-10 - 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!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org