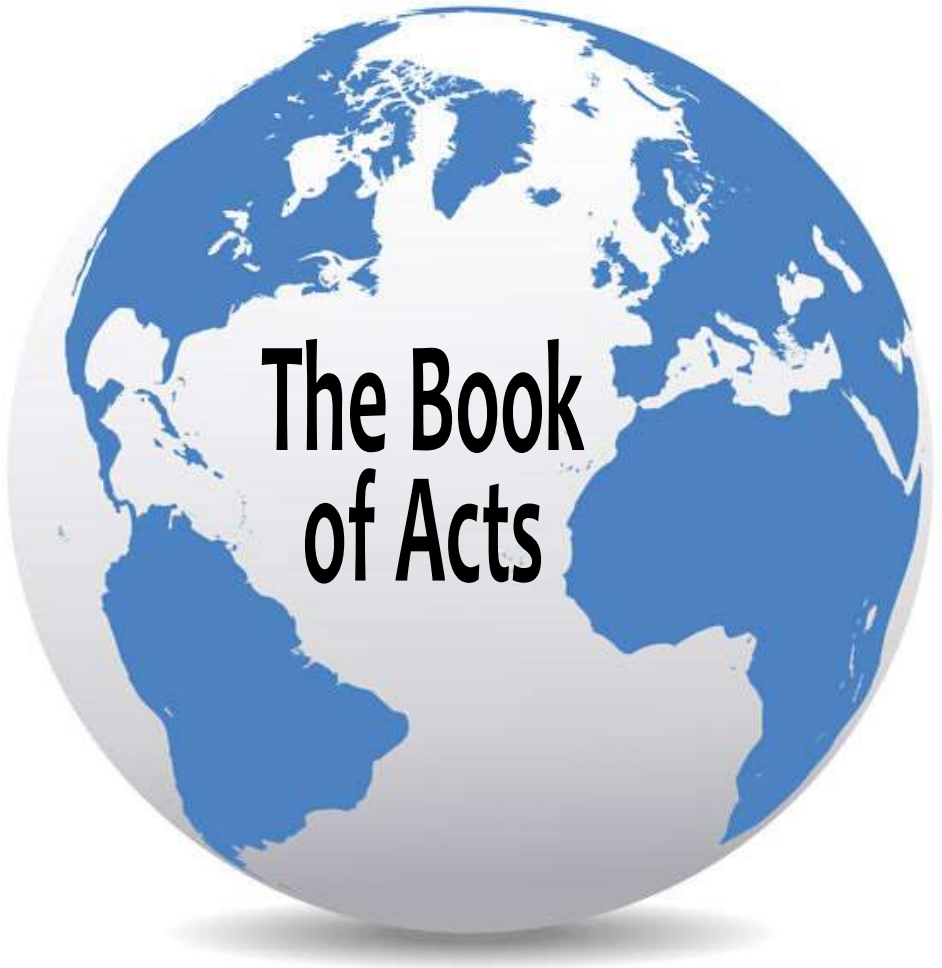


Let's Worship God

26th-31st March 2018
Acts





The Book of ACTS

Monday - Acts 20:17-23 - Paul and the Elders

Paul was accompanied by seven men (v.4) who were possibly representing the various Gentile churches who had contributed money to relieve the church at Jerusalem. The apostle was deeply concerned that this help should be both given and received to express the oneness of the whole body of Christ, both Jew and Gentile (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 & ch.9; Romans 15:25-28).

As he proceeds toward Jerusalem, he calls the elders of the Ephesian church to meet him at Miletus. In verse 28, he calls them 'overseers' - episkopos - the word is sometimes translated 'bishop' (1 Timothy 3:1, Titus 1:7, Philippians 1:1) since elders and bishops describe the same office.

Questions

1. Who does Paul call to meet him?
2. Who do elders oversee?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for our elders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 101:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Tuesday - Acts 20:24-38 - Take Heed

Paul's concern for the unity of the church was coupled with an ardent desire that the church should be soundly established in true doctrine, as his address to these elders clearly shows. Without the truth of the Gospel being maintained, any supposed unity is a mere façade. That for which men will shed tears can be a strong indicator of what matters most deeply to them. Paul had shed many tears of concern for the Ephesian church (v.31). Do you ever shed tears other than for yourself and those close to you by natural ties? Is Zion's cause dear to you? Does the Church's living testimony to truth of God matter immensely to you?

Heresy could arise from within (v.30) - would the elders put truth first and personal ties of friendship or kinship second. Would they be so spiritually healthy as to treat false doctrine as poison that would be deadly for the flock of God? They needed to be taking heed to themselves now, as well as the flock, to not be found wanting in any future crisis. Heresy makes headway when doctrinally orthodox men are spiritually stagnant and thus become tolerant of that which should cause them alarm and stir them to resolute action.

Questions

1. Who does the apostle say they should take heed of first?
2. How can a minister make himself not responsible for the ruin of others?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would care deeply for the Church's testimony to the truth.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 101:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Wednesday - Acts 21:1-6 - On to Jerusalem

To leave this world with comfort through death, it is necessary that we be assured of our being in Christ, and that we have such a sense of the excellence of Christ and of going to be with Him, that any sense of loss of present enjoyments is thoroughly outweighed by the anticipation of the joys of the world to come.

Those whom we love in this world can disappoint us, or else be removed from us. If not, we will, in due time be removed from them by death. If they and we ourselves are believers in the Lord Jesus, this separation will be only temporary, but nevertheless real and potentially very painful. The thought of never again being together in this life can cause great anguish, even for God's people. "Friends are a great mercy, but they are not a sure mercy" (Joseph Caryl, 1602-1673).

Questions

1. Are we "hanging loose" to the things of this life so that we are ready when the great change comes?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 73A:12-15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Thursday - Acts 21:7-14 - Gain Greater Than Loss

The apostle Paul has been represented by enemies of the truth as an unfeeling autocrat. That this is nonsense is evident from the sorrow of the Ephesian elders in the previous chapter (20:36-38). They sorrowed at the thought of not seeing him again! Likewise at Caesarea, his friends and fellow-believers wept as they pleaded with him not to endanger his life by going to Jerusalem. Far from being unmoved by this, his heart was ready to break. But he loved Christ above all and desired the presence and fellowship of Christ above all. He had tasted and seen that the Lord is good. We need much of fellowship with Christ on earth. We cannot have too much of this true heavenly-mindedness. Then the prospect of severing all earthly ties will be swallowed up by the prospect of perfecting that fellowship we have already known in its sweetness. The break with people and scenes so dear to us will lose its wrenching distress. We will be convinced that "to die is gain" (Phil.1:21). "To know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph.3:19).

Questions

1. Can we love Christ too much?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would love Christ above all.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 73C:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Friday - Acts 21:15-26 - Paul in Jerusalem

God's purpose is so often different to ours. God works in situations that look so confusing to us. But all is calm in the mind of God, the whole of history is as a "sea of glass" (Revelation 15:2) from the throne of God. James and the elders gathered and gloried in the Lord for His grace to the Gentiles (vs. 18-20). They then spelled out a problem. Many of the Christians were Jews and still wedded to the Old Testament ceremonies and allowed, during the transition period to the New Testament (or "New Covenant" - the new administration of the Covenant of Grace) to observe these. Paul agreed to a sample observance of the Old Testament ceremonies provided the decisions of the Jerusalem synod were adhered to and no impositions were made upon the Gentile Christians.

Questions

1. Is there any Biblical warrant for Jewish believers observing Old Testament and otherwise redundant ceremonies today?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that ceremonies have been fulfilled in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 106:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



The Book of ACTS

Saturday - Acts 21:27-40 - God's Purpose

The ill-affected Jews from Asia stirred up the people to think of Paul as not only against the ceremonies but they also assumed, wrongly, that he had taken Trophimus, an Ephesian, into the temple (vs. 18-19). Uproar resulted and Paul's life was only saved by the intervention of the guards (v.31-33) and the tribune (the captain of a thousand men), already under pressure at the festivals (vs. 31-33). He thought Paul was an Egyptian assassin (who occasionally attacked Roman soldiers with a concealed dagger and were known as "sikari", the dagger men). Paul requests to speak from the castle stairs, which he does, in Hebrew. The point is that Paul continues his testimony despite personal danger and utter confusion. A lesson for us surely.

Questions

1. Is there any situation where the Lord cannot or has said He will not work?

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

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

Praise: Psalm 106:5-8 - 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
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