

SESSION SIX
BOOK OF ACTS NOTES
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH
C Pinkney - - Conclude Chapters 4 and 5

(READER : Chapter 4:10 – 12) **10** Then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for **there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.**”

- A. V. **12** **The claim for Jesus to be Saviour as unique** it is now a calm statement of fact held by those born of the Spirit
What is the nature of salvation? How is it achieved?
The study of the doctrine of Salvation in the Christian faith is Soterology.
What are some teachings that address how a person can be saved???

READER : Chapter 4:13- 16) **When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.** **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16** “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.

READER 17-20 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” **18** **Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.** **19** But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. **20** For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

A. Facing Conflict, Peter and the disciples are not dissuaded from preaching Jesus as resurrected Messiah. The apostles will stand on principle and persevere in proclaiming the message regardless of consequences.

B. Politely they refuse to desist from using Jesus’ Name. Peter says ‘we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard,’ Preaching is proclaiming the testimony of what has been made experiential. Again, it is the application of John 3:11 **(That which we know we say, that which we have seen we testify!)**

READER : Chapter 4:21 -31 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. **22** For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. The Believers’ Prayer **23** On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. **24** When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. **25** You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: **Psalm 2:1-3** “*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26*The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. **(The prophetic words of the Psalmist become relevant to this moment, a near fulfillment)**

READER Continue: 27 – 31 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. **28** They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. **29** **Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30** **Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31** After they prayed, the place where

they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The prayer itself is offered in unison (and unity) and has astonishing results. The place is visibly shaken and the group is *again* filled with the Holy Spirit. They were filled in one act speaking the word of God with boldness because this was what they had done before. **They did not pray for a filling, but received it.** They were not necessarily lacking filling, but the affusion was (evidently) necessary, being both a sign and an enablement.

The Believers Share Their Possessions

READ 32 – 37 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions were his own, but they shared everything they had. **33** With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. **34** There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35** and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. **36** Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), **37** sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Commentary C4:32–37

A. These verses show the degree of intimacy and the fellowship of like minded and separated for the reality of a new kind of people whose entire focus is upon God. This state is related to the Spirit of love and fellowship. The unity of the Spirit worked out in the loving concern of all as brethren. The grace of God overcame the possessiveness of the rich and greed of the poor.

B. **None were needy; the principle was 'distribution...to each as any had need.' It was not equal distribution of wealth.** Barnabas is introduced, well-described as to race, country and disposition no doubt with his later appearances in the book in mind. Barnabas typifies the high level of fellowship and true love (unfeigned love) a consequence of the outpouring of the Spirit. Such a level maintained would be dynamic and winning. Such Satan would view with alarm and deadly opposition.

ACTS 5: READ -- 1-11 JUDGMENT IN THE AGE OF GRACE??

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **2** And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? **4** While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. **6** And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." **9** Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband. **11** So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

God deals with sin and deception for the first time in the "Age of Grace?"

Questions to be considered: **Teachers contradict each other teaching the meaning of this event.**

1. Were Ananais and Sapphira true believers and spiritual reborn?
2. The time was the first of the age of the church "The age of grace" Where was the grace?
3. Do you suppose that Satan was at work to destroy this mighty move of God?
4. What spiritual gift was displayed here by Peter?
5. Might this have been a case where Peter misused his authority, causing the death of the two?

SIGNS AND WONDERS ARE INCREASING IN THIS TIME OF OUTPOURED GRACE

ACTS 5: READ 12-17 -12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

RELIGIOUS LEADERS MUST ACT IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS THE GROWING CHRISTIAN "SECT"

ACTS 5: READ 18-25 -18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. 21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned and told, 23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. 24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. 25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

POPULAR ACCEPTANCE IMPEDES THE ACTION OF THE JEWISH LEADERS

ACTS 5: READ 26-34

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: **for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.**

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

A HEARING IS HELD BY THE JEWISH COUNSEL FOR PETER AND OTHER APOSTLES

Peter addresses the religious leaders again in reference to God's purposes in the Messiah.

ACTS 5 30 – 32 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Gamaliel addresses the religious leaders as to whether this movement be of God or not.

(Gamaliel is a Pharisee of the highest order of experience and learning . He was the master of a rabbinical school in Jerusalem at this time who mentored Saul.)

34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.