

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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ACTS FACTS

Larry R. Ping II

The book of Acts is a grand book! Within its 28 chapters are found voluminous amounts of lessons and examples. In this short article we will examine a few facts about Acts.

1) ACTS IS AUTHORED BY LUKE.

"Theophilus" is mentioned in both Acts 1:1 and Luke 1:3. He ties these books together. He appears to have been a Roman or Greek disciple who made quite an impact. Since Luke wrote this great book, we then can understand when the word "we" is used in Acts, it includes Luke.

2) ACTS IS THE GREAT COMMISSION IN ACTION.

In word it says, "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen*" (Matt.

28:18-20). In deed, the Gospel was first delivered to the Jews in Acts 2-9. From there, the Gentiles would become part of God's plan (Acts 10 and following). This is seen in the last words of Jesus, "*ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8).

3) ACTS IS A PATTERN FOR

CONVERSION. Every child of God needs to know the conversions in the book of Acts. Do you? The Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2), the Samaritans (Acts 8), Saul (Acts 9,22,26), Cornelius (Acts 10,11), Lydia and the Philippian Jailor (Acts 16), the Corinthians (Acts 18) and the Ephesians (Acts 19). Each of these lay a blueprint as to how conversion works.

4) ACTS TWO IS THE CENTRAL CHAPTER

OF THE BIBLE. Every account and every chapter before it looks to the events of it. Every account and every

chapter after it looks back to it. This, in no way, discounts the incredibly important work of Jesus. By His own words He said, "*I will build my church*" (Matt. 16:18) and within the confines of this great book of Acts are the words, "*the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28). For the first time in Acts 2, the Lord's Church was spoken of as being in existence.

5) ACTS, ON ITS OWN, CAN TEACH GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN.

What a remarkable book! If only we were in possession of this book, we could tell others about the love, grace, and mercy of God. We could tell of His entire plan for saving man, and show the grave mistakes of putting off obedience. For this reason, any and all time used in studying this book is well-spent! Remember, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

JESUS AND TEMPTATION

Larry R. Ping II

In Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation (Matthew 4:1-11), there are many and varied lessons to learn. Consider these with me.

1) EVERYONE WHO WALKS ON EARTH IS TEMPTED. To this fact Jesus was not an exception. Even our Lord was enticed to do those things which are wrong. Paul notified his readers that temptation is "common" to man (1 Corinthians 10:13).

2) THE DEVIL WILL TEMPT MAN AT HIS WEAKEST POINT. A simple reading of our text will indicate Jesus had been fasting 40 days and nights. I think we can safely assume he was very hungry — in fact, famished. So what does the devil tempt Him to do first? Make stones into bread! Do not be foolish enough to disregard the fact Satan will find the weak point and attack it!

3) SCRIPTURE IS OUR MOST EFFECTIVE

WEAPON AGAINST TEMPTATION. But, it can only be part of our arsenal if we study and meditate upon it daily (Acts 17:11). Knowing God's Law is a priceless attribute. David knew this as he wrote "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*" (Psalm 119:11). Jesus used Scripture as each temptation mounted — we should too!

4) SATAN IS DILIGENT IN HIS BUSINESS. And his business is simple — cause folks to stay away and go away from God. When Jesus rebuffed Him once, he came at Him again. As Jesus denied Satan a second time, the tempter returned for a third attempt. He will do the same in our lives.

5) THE DEVIL WILL FLEE EVENTUALLY. The words of James are as true today as when they were written — "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

When Jesus rejected the devil's third and final temptation, he fled. The same can be and is true of us. We must fight the urge to sin. We repel the devil's pleas, and he will flee. But do not make the mistake of thinking he will not return, for he surely will — and we must be ready to battle again!

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"
(I Corinthians 10:13).

"Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped"
(Psalm 124:7).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm