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February 2007

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Issue 2

Boldness of Deter and John Acts Ghapter 4

The book of Acts begins by the account of the ascension of Jesus after He promised the Apostles they would receive power from on high. Then the day of Pentecost came, and the Church began with a membership of 3,000; after this the miracle of the healing of a lame man, the preaching of the second gospel sermon the membership grew to 5,000. At that point the first persecution began because the priests, captain of the temple, and Sadducees, being troubled by the message about Jesus and the resurrection arrested Peter and John and put them in jail.

To preach Jesus and the resurrection says more than the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead; it includes all that the Lord's resurrection means to us.

For us now, the resurrection means as Paul said in Philippians the third chapter; that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, if by any means I shall attain unto the resurrection from the dead.

Then again in Titus the second chapter Paul reveals that the resurrection of Jesus means: we can look for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

And beyond all this the resurrection of Jesus leads us to the anticipation of Revelation twenty-two; "The Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." This is what the resurrection of Jesus means to the Christian, and this glorious truth troubled the priests and elders of the people.

There isn't anything the Devil hates more then the preaching of Jesus and the resurrection. The Devil murdered the human race when Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord in the Garden of Eden. Jesus spoke of this event in John chapter eight when He said the Devil was a murderer from the beginning. Every person since that day, who rejects the fact that Jesus arose from the dead believes so because he is inspired by the same Devil that deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Now consider this. The court that convened was a kangaroo court. Annas, the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, as well as two other noted rabbis, and some of their kinsmen. They put Peter and John in the midst. The officers of the court sat in a circle, with the two fishermen in the center.

This reminds us of David's Psalms 22 where it is said in regards to the crucifixion of Jesus, "For dogs have compassed me: and the assembly of the wicked enclosed me." Then again in Psalms 118 "They compassed me about like bees." So in this case with Peter and John, they circled around them like a pack of hungry dogs, and a swarm of bees.

Peter was polite, respectful and bold; he said: "Ye rulers of the people and elders, if we this day are examined concerning a good deed done to an impotent man, by what means this man has been made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised up from the dead, even in Him doth this man stand before you whole. He is the stone that was set at naught by you builders which is made the head of the corner. And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven that is given among men whereby ye must be saved."

When the council heard the boldness of Peter and John and perceived they were unlearned and ignorant men they marveled, and took knowledge of them that the had been with Jesus.

Peter had politely told the council they were the ones who crucified Jesus. Not only did he say they had crucified Jesus, but he pressed upon them that they were the ones that did it, and furthermore God raised Him from the dead. But beyond that He told them Jesus was the only way of salvation.

People have not changed. They are not ready to hear that Jesus is the only way in this "please everybody world" to be saved. While they may agree that Jesus saves they insist there are other religions that save also.

According to Peter there is no other way. In fact Peter agreed with the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, John 14:6 "No one cometh unto the Father but by Me" Some might say there are other great religious leaders, and Jesus is the best of the lot. That is not good enough. There is no second best, or third best. Jesus is not the best way of several ways to go to heaven: According to Peter and his Lord; Jesus is the only way.

Peter reminded the council that they were being charged for a good deed done to an impotent man. It appears that the council thought that doing a good deed to an impotent man was a crime against society. Is there any difference in the world now? It seems that being a Christian in the eyes of many is a crime. This should come as no surprise to the Christian because in John seventeen is the longest recorded prayer that Jesus prayed in the New Testament: "I have given them Thy word; and the world hated them because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou take them out of the world, but that Thou should keep them from the evil one."

In fact it may be worse than that, because Jesus said in John sixteen before He prayed that prayer, "The hour cometh, that whoever killeth you shall think that he doeth service unto God." Incidentally, the radicals who brought nine eleven upon us thought they were doing their god a favor.

The council in this case brushed aside the boldness of the message with the charge they were unlearned and ignorant men. Today the same charge is made regarding the person who believes the Biblical story of creation, the miracles, and resurrection. With all our scientific achievements, surely no one would believe those things anymore.

It seems in the eyes of the world that a person who believes the bible story of creation, the resurrection from the dead, the judgment, and heaven or hell is plain stupid. On the other hand when a scholar such as Paul preached before king Agrippa the same message; governor Festus cried out: Paul thou art mad thy much learning is turning thee mad. It seems the world has the answer to faith; you either have to be stupid or crazy to believe the Bible.

That is what the world said exactly 2,000 years ago, and times have not changed. So actually unbelief is the most old fashioned thing there is. Skepticism is as old as the Garden of Eden. Skepticism is as old as the Devil.

This lame man that was healed stood by the Apostles as a testimony of the truth of the message that was preached. The preacher today has a hard time of it when the congregation will not stand with him in the preaching of the word. The end result is the preacher will tell them what they want to hear, because it is hard to stand-alone.

There may be no greater service that a congregation can give to the Devil, than to rebuke the preacher for telling them the truth. And there is no greater help the preacher can give the Devil than to cave in to their perverted desires.

And the second thing about this man standing with the

Apostles was the fact that the obvious truth the man that was healed was more than forty years old. Apparently if he had been under forty it would have been an easy miracle; but over forty was unbelievable without classifying it as a miracle. When I was a young man I heard a lady proclaim on her fortieth birthday: "I am forty years old today, and life begins at forty." I thought to myself at the time; what do you mean life begins a forty, you are practically dead already.

There is a suggestion there for us today. It is the experience of many of us today who preach the gospel that most of the decisions that are made to become a Christian are made while young. It seems the longer you wait the more difficult it is to experience the miracle of salvation. The longer a person waits the more hardened the conscience becomes, and the accumulation of more sin adds more guilt to their damnation.

So the council had to make a decision, and the decision was: "Let us threaten them that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and charged them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."

The Apostles did not leave with any misunderstanding, they said, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you rather than unto God, judge ye, for we cannot but speak the things which we heard and saw.

It does not appear that Peter asked John what he thought we ought to do, or that John asked Peter what they could say that would please both Jesus and the court. There was no question about it. They knew they were accountable to God, and no one else.

According to Matthew, Jesus had told them "All power hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world." So it is written, so let it be done.

* * * * *



LETTERS Report: Ike & Lee

Please join us to praise the Lord for his mercies and thank him for his grace, which has made it possible for us to live to see a new year; even if we suffered loss in our business or to our love ones or sustained some injuries and went through all sorts of calamities, He deserved to be praised! He directs a man's steps so no man can understand his own ways. Whether good or bad we owe Him our praises.

GIJAPA have been very good to us, our family and ministry that today many people are enjoying life too through us. Many come to us telling us how their lives have changed for the better because they have seen Christ and so have left the filthy things in this wrenched life. Today, alcohol buzzers have stop buzzing, fornicators are no longer into fornication, people who never went to Church are now flooding the Church houses, those who were stealing are now working seriously to provide for themselves and family and many broken and wretched marriages have been like what God wants marriage to be--praise the Lord!

Today, thousands of people are studying the word of God through the lessons and several thousands too have Bibles they couldn't have bought but for The Truth-GIJAPA collaboration. May the Lord bless you for contributing towards the proclamation of the gospel here?

Shoes and other dresses were a big problem for many village folks that they were not attending Church because they feel shy to use one dress or shirt to Church everyday. Praise the Lord today they have more than two shirts or dresses for Church and for other places.

May the good Lord richly bless you!

Our work with GIJAPA has been very successful. Bible study lessons, English Bibles, Bibles in our local languages, certificates, Ed's books, GIJAPA CDs and tapes from the Feathers have been promptly arriving for our students. More lessons are been sent out almost every week and more are coming to be sent for grading. Many souls are also turning into Christ through this project and always remember that together we are winning all these souls.

Ike and Lee Pertey

The Truth and Parkside Church of Christ in Ghana

Dear Ed,

This is Alexander K. from Almaty, Kazakhastan. In Russia. Thank you very much for your wonderful book with sermons! It is doubly precious to me to get the book right from its author! (Ed's sermon book sent upon Alexander completing 30 lessons of "Studies in the Bible.) I would like to have more material of your teachings and commentaries. I would be grateful very much for more information and further communication! I would like to have more books of yours, if possible! There are many denominations at present, most of them teach different false ideas, as the TULIP principles of the Presbyterians and Reformed. They steal the salvation from most of people, leaving it to a limited number of the so-called "elect." I guess Mr. Calvin was a bit mentally sick person, crazy nut! With his famous would-be "Biblical" teaching of "bad and good pots" he was himself a bad night pot for the corresponding usage! I feel the voice of truth and presence of the Holy Spirit in your sermons! Thank you very much once again! Now I have a limited access to the Internet, so I profit by the chance to express my gratitude! God bless you richly!

Yours in Christ, Alex

Dear Brother Ed,

Greetings from Union Christian College, North East India. I am sending the second set of answer sheets of the ten students doing the correspondence Studies in the Bible. College closes for winter vacation December 6-February 8, 2007. I gave them lessons 21-30 lessons to do at home during holidays and bring back when they return to college. I will be away also and be available at the following address: Prof. Edward.

My name is Eliazar from Union Christian College in Shillang, India. I am studying in BA. I grew up from Christian family--my father is a Baptist Pastor and my mother is a housewife. I am the first-born child and I have one sister and 2 brothers. It is a privilege, which leads my spiritual life grown up day by day when I take the opportunity of "Studies in the Bible." Of course I read and heard the story of Bible before, but when I study the Bible practically it really inspired and impressed me to concern my about the Bible I believe that God is training me now to be his servant. I realize the love of God how rich and pure day by day.

I am in the Arkansas Department of Corrections in Malvern, AR. I would love to get me my very own Bible. Please I would love to study God's word and better myself. I am saved and have been baptized since being in here. I have to borrow a Bible to read. Thank you so much.

Your brother in Christ JJ (A large print Bible was sent along with Bible Study lessons.)

Dear Bro. Ed,

I have known of your ministry thru the years, but didn't really get the impact of it until I attended Restoration Destination in November in SC and read your newsletter. I'm sending a gift I received from my daughter for Christmas for the purpose of sending Bibles to where they are needed. Thanks so much for your life of faithfulness and example.

Ginger from Lawrenceville, IL

Dear Ed Bousman,

Greetings in the name of our soon coming King Jesus. I'm extremely happy and the Lord is doing great miracles through the studies I'm having with "GIJAPA." Really saying the Lord is wonderful for such new revelations He is opening to my soul and spirit. May the Lord expand your ministry to reach every corner of this world so as for people to know this unadultered word of God. He's marvelous, God is good. I wish to continue with your studies until I have the real, real word of God for my spiritual survival. Since I started these GIJAPA lessons there's a change in my attitude towards the word of. I now know it as our only source of spiritual nourishment. Without it no one can survive, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," John 8:32. Thank you brother.

Chequtu from Zimbabwe

Dear Brother Bousman,

I've visited your website sometime last week and I appreciate so much on your work there for the preaching of the gospel. Wish I could have much time to read your web page and to do some communication with you in that venue, but I have not enough expense for the Internet fee. I am but a poor Filipino evangelist whose effort is more on with local churches that are unable to pay their preachers. So I have to save even the smallest penny to keep on with these responsibilities. Besides I have also some health emergencies that paralyze my pockets for a time due to some medical bills. Pray someday you could visit my place and share to us the saving and inspiring word of God. I really appreciate your work there, and I appreciate very much if you have some printed materials you could share me in the mail. Regards to your wife. Keep the magnitude going.

Ed from The Bagbag Church of Christ in Philippines

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may you have a prosperous & Happy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Bousman, Such a great work you and your staff are doing! I have no idea where my small donation is needed most but I trust you to place wherever (Bibles, postage, lessons). I am always looking forward to newsletter. Merry Christmas &

your pot of oil never runs dried in Jesus Name. M.O. from Nigeria

I prayed that God will continue to enrich your ministry in Jesus Name Amen. I want to encourage you to continue in your Radio Broadcast that is heard every Monday PM over Radio Africa for it has increased me in knowledge and understanding of His word. Please send me any literature that will increase me heavenly wise. I will be grateful. May

and your ministry members. I received the note and gifts

sent (Ed's NT book & audio tapes from Feathers) unto me,

Dear Sir. Season greetings from the throne of grace unto you

ten to radio broadcast over WIBC 1070 Indianapolis, IN every Sunday morning at 7:30 AM. Many ministers nowadays are just feeding their congregations "milk," thanks to God for Ed Bousman who provides the "meat" of the gospel. So many Churches going to contemporary services also I think they can leave off the "con" just the last 9 letters more aptly describes. Fellow pilgrims just passing through. Cleo from Indiana

Some Christmas wishes from listeners & Thanks for the

thousands of cards we received:

TO: Ed & Naomi, Roberta Burns, Amy Butler, Barbara Ertel, Ellen Pennington, Mona Allen and volunteers. Many thanks to all who help keep GIJAPA going. I lis-

Dear Brother Ed.

Just a small token for you. Sorry it can't be more. Maybe it will help some. May God bless you as you bring the gospel each Lord's Day. You are the only one who preaches the gospel any more. We listen to you every Sunday morning. Keep up the good work. We will keep you in our prayers. May God bless you. Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

JH from KY

Dear Ed. Naomi & All

Dear Friend,

Our Lord sees what faithful servants you all are. I cannot imagine your eternal rewards. May God continue to bless you and your work here and now.

Louie from Indianapolis, IN

Merry Christmas to you both. I thank you both for all the work you are doing. I still listen to you two times on WLW 6:30 and 8 every Sunday morning. I go to Springboro Christian Church. I'm not in very good health and feeble for my age and helpless and I go when my daughter goes. I sure do enjoy the newsletter. So keep up the good work. I am amazed at what you can do at your age. You're the only one that I know that preaches the Bible any more. Thank God for that. Use this gift for anything that's needed. A Happy New Year to you. Ms. Blanche

I am one of the participants of your radio program. It

is very good and make me to have a good behavior and tell

me more about Jesus Christ how He saves the world. Know

that I want to be part of your Bible Study and please send

me a Bible with the Bible Study course.

Bilisuma from Ethiopia