

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

November 29, 2009

Application In Acts

I've been studying Acts for my own edification and growth. Acts is full of modern application. Let's note some examples in this article.

Acts 9:20-22 says, **“And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, He is the Son of God. And all who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon his name? And has he not come here for that purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests? But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.”**

The moment Paul's sins were washed away, he dedicated his entire life to Jesus Christ and service in His kingdom. What application may we draw from this? Most spiritually minded people, when confronted with their sins, are willing to admit those sins and put them away. Paul was willing to do much more than that. After admitting sin and putting them away, he eagerly took the positive action of putting on the opposite form of behavior and *actively sought to do* what was right. Christianity is just as much about doing as it is believing. Paul understood that from the start and lived accordingly. I believe, but am I doing? How about you?

Acts 10:42 says, **“And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”**

In Acts 10 we find the account of Peter and Cornelius. This was the time when Peter exercised his right to use the keys of the kingdom, this time to the Gentiles. After some convincing, Peter went to speak to Cornelius and those gathered to hear what Peter would say. Peter explained to them what took place with Christ and how he and his fellow disciples were commanded to tell the people about these things. The greatest news a person will ever hear is the news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet good news is useless unless it is told. God has provided a way for man to escape the shackles of sin and reconcile to Him. This way exists and is wonderful whether we tell anyone about it or not. But what does it profit them if they don't know? If we were in a burning building with a group of people and we were the only one's who knew there was a way out, wouldn't we tell them? The way out of that building to safety exists whether those people know about it or not. However, it benefits them in no way unless they are told how to find it. The good news of the gospel is very much like that. Thus, God has commanded His disciples to talk about it. I would never have known if someone hadn't told me. How about you?

Acts 5:29 says, **“But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men.”**

In the previous verse the council reminded them that they had been strictly charged not to speak any longer in the name of Jesus. Peter and the others made it clear that they really had no choice in the matter, at least if they wished to please God. With that declaration, they openly and

willingly placed their lives on the line. They were willing to sacrifice even that much if it were required. What are we willing to sacrifice to obey God rather than man? Time, money, a job, our lives? I want the same crown that Peter and the other apostles enjoy. If I want their crown, I've got to have their commitment. That means that I must be willing to sacrifice everything to obey God. Am I willing? Are you?

Acts 6:10 says, **“But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.”**

Stephen was a powerful man for the sake of Christ. They could not withstand Stephen's wisdom and Spirit because, in truth, they were not contending with Stephen. They were contending with God. While you and I are not Spirit inspired as was Stephen, we can be every bit as effective in contending for the faith and confounding the enemies of Christ, and we can do it the very same way. While Stephen was speaking by inspiration, we can use the words of men who wrote by inspiration. While Stephen was not stuck arguing and reasoning from his own wisdom, neither must you and I be. Stephen overcame every argument and falsehood leveled at the church and Christ by letting the Spirit provide the answers. We have the same answers today. Let's learn them, meditate upon them, and grow strong in them. If we do so, opponents of Christ will not be able to withstand the wisdom with which we speak because we will have wrapped ourselves in the impenetrable armor of the wisdom and word of God.

Scripture is never more meaningful than when we read it not as an intellectual exercise or as something to do to past the time, but with a real eye toward application and a willingness to make it when we see it. If we read it for that reason we will come out better than when we went in every time we open God's Word. Remember to ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) and study to apply!

Adam

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Taylor Osterling is home and currently stable.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater's new room number is 32.</p> <p>Don Bowman has torn his calf.</p> <p>Michelle Oxendine (friend of Jim Edwards) is in the late stages of ovarian cancer.</p> <p>David Day (Bobbie Atkisson's grandson) has been deployed to Iraq. His wife will follow in December.</p> <p>Cecil Ellis had a leg amputated at Central Baptist last Wednesday due to very poor circulation.</p>	<p>Remember Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.</p> <p>The auditorium class on the work of the church will begin very soon. We will follow the outline set forth by Brother Cogdill. However, we will begin with lessons 7-9 and then go to lessons 1-6. I intend to complete lessons 7-9 in two classes, one for lesson 7 (our first class) and the other for 8 and 9 (our second class). Please pick up your book if you haven't already.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>