

The Bible Companion Series

Christianity in Action

The Acts of the Apostles

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

The Bible Companion Series of Bible Studies

These Study Notes Belong to: _____

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The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter Four

How to Stand-Up For Christ

Focus Verse: **Acts 4:19**

"But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."

I. Study Introduction

- A. Trouble goes with Christianity (John 16:33) like peanut butter goes with jam! We are going against the flow (Matt 7:13,14)
- B. The Christian who only wants a free-ride is in for a rude-awakening
- C. But the trouble is not bad. It is what God uses to get the glory as we yield to His grace and power through it all!

II. Study Outline

A. How to Grieve Satan's Crowd (4:1,2)

1. *Deal directly with _____* - carry your gospel out into the streets! The world really doesn't care what we believe, and what we do inside a church-building. What they worry about is us living it!
2. *Teach and preach* - actually explain the truth, and make it clear to people, compelling the lost to come to Christ. Don't let people go on in their darkness! Find a way to wake them up!!!
3. *Convince people that Jesus really is _____* (because of the resurrection, because of the fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies in the Bible), and that all He said was true! That will upset the evolutionists, the humanists, and the religionists!

B. How to Deal With Governmental and Cultural Persecution (4:3-22). Remember to expect it (John 15:20,21)

1. The leaders of opposition (4:1,2,5,6)
 - a. Priests - _____
 - b. Temple captain - _____ (Cf 19:21-27)
 - c. Sadducees - _____
2. The methods of opposition (4:3,7,16-18,21)
 - a. Confinement (4:3) Scare tactics
 - b. Interrogation (4:7) - belittling, and examining them in court
 - c. Enact laws against free-speech (4:16-18) that involves religion
 - d. Threaten to do worse (4:21)
3. The results of opposition (4:4-14)
 - a. Thousands more were encouraged to trust Christ - He was worth it (4:4)
 - b. The Christians only became _____ (4:8-12)
 - c. The Christians became more _____ upon Christ (4:13)
 - d. Even the opposition will not be able to withstand the truth (4:14; Luke 21:12-17). Christianity has always forced the world to change. Don't allow it to force you to change!
4. The response to opposition (4:8-12, 18-22)
 - a. Be open and honest about what you are doing
 - b. Turn the situation around to the issue of their sins
 - c. Make Jesus Christ THE only answer
 - d. Tell them they MUST BE _____! (Cf John 3:3,7)
 - e. Remind them that God is to be obeyed above any and all others (4:19)
 - f. Explain that you are only talking about what you have experienced, and know for a fact (4:20)
 - g. Remember that God is not going to let you down (4:21-22)!
 - h. Note: This man's infirmity was longer than any on record - Jesus healed a man of 38 years infirmity in John 5:5.

C. How to Have A Good Church Service (4:23-37)

1. Make Christians and church "*your own _____*" (4:23)
2. Praise and honour the God you serve (4:23-30)
 - a. Have a unified burden as a church for prayer, and dependence upon God - "in one accord" ought to be our goal
 - b. Give testimony of God's hand in your life - take notes
 - c. Remember that you are in good company - ie, David, Jesus (4:25-27)
 - d. Beg Him for continued boldness in face of threatenings (4:27)

- e. Be surrendered to fitting in God's plan - instead of making your own (4:28). God had before, already determined that Christ would have to die, and Christ accepted. So should we!
 - f. Request continued proof of His hand through your lives
 - 1) _____ to preach and witness
 - 2) _____ to prove - healing, miracles, signs and wonders
3. Expect answers to your prayers (4:31; Mark 11:22-24)
- a. Earthquake - the hand of God
 - b. Filling with the Holy Ghost - continued empowerment
 - c. Speak the word of God (not tongues) with boldness
4. Be busy in the work of the Lord (4:32-33; 1 Cor 15:58)
- a. Maintain unity - by growing in God's word
 - b. De-emphasize _____ - yearn more for God's *presence*
 - c. Give witness of the resurrection - the primary proof that Jesus is the only way is the fact that He alone rose again!
 - d. Have great _____ with each other - focus on the real enemy! This is the greatest need right here - how much grace? GREAT! Put up with things - rather love and enjoy the things of God. The way to get grace is by **humility** (Ja 4:6)
5. Take care of one another (4:34-37) - the fruit of grace is *giving*!
- a. _____ (4:34,35; 2:44-45) - This was not mandatory, but voluntary - a Christian *family* member who wont help out is worthless!
 - 1) Dedicate what you possess back to God- make Him *Lord*
 - 2) Allow God to do what He wants with your life & money
 - 3) Meet the need - tens of thousands of new baby Christians kicked-out of their homes, now needed to be housed and fed. People sold extra houses and lands
 - a) We need to be very careful here - care for people in need, not allow them to be lazy (Cf 1Ti 5:3-6).
 - b) We need to be unified as a church - care financially for those who have lost jobs for the Gospel
 - c) Look out for ways to help each other out as if each were literal brothers or sisters! Kill the pride, and forget about class-systems! Be a family!
 - d) Allow the pastor (like the apostles) to distribute the help (4:35) - set up a means of
 - b. _____ (4:36,37)
 - 1) Barnabas was a great _____, the best of friends to all! He was an exhorter (11:22-24; 14:21,22). He got people excited about living for God, and giving for souls! An exhorter advises, warns, cautions, stirs up Christians!
 - 2) Barnabas was a great _____ - didn't wait for someone else to do things, but took the lead himself! People need encouragement to follow and serve God- so we should work to become good examples
 - 3) The spiritual Christians need to take the _____ (Gal 6:1)
 - 4) The younger Christians are to be humble enough to yield to preaching, & instruction (Pr 13:1; 9:8; Eccl 7:5)

III. Conclusion and Study Questions