

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 Three

Christianity Meets The Need

Focus Verse: **Acts 3:6**

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

I. Study Introduction

- A. The attitude of Bible Christianity has been from its inception: meet the real need. Biblical Christianity cares about feeding and clothing people, but worries more about the eternal destiny of this world, than its comfort level, and its lifespan! Real Christians see the soul more than the skin colour, the sickness, the pain, and the troubles of life - we see the future, and the opportunity that God has given us to meet this world's greatest need - Christ!
- B. Acts chapter three shows Christianity meeting the need, and setting the pattern. yes miracles can and do happen, but the miracle of salvation is the focus! See Mark 2:1-5

II. Study Outline

A. Background

1. People tend to focus upon _____ -i.e., beautiful homes, being debt free (which you ought to be), healthy kids, secure job, etc.
2. Enter two men - two of the most confident men that you would ever meet - Peter, and John in Acts 3. From these two men here in this chapter, I want to dwell on the things primarily that you and I **have** as Christians to show you that in spite of whatever you may think that you don't have, you have all you need in order to be used of God!
3. We know what these two men did NOT have:
 - a. _____ - these were fishermen (Acts 4:13)
 - b. _____ - note 3:6. Isn't that something how God's people normally have *this* lack (see 2 Cor 8:2), and spend more time complaining to God about it!
 - 1) It is not that these things are not desirable, nor that these are wrong to have. It does however get in the way of those who "don't have an education, or plenty of money" when it comes time for them to believe that God can use them!

B. The Riches of New Testament Christianity (Rev 2:8,9; 3:1-11)

1. The Treasure of **Fellowship** (3:1) "*Peter and John went up _____*" Christians need each other, and miss out when they put "buddies" and girl-friends ahead of Christians! Christians too easily forsake the assembling of themselves, which is Church, and the supporting of one another! These Christians may not have had much else, but they had fellowship:
 - a. Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2,18,26)
 - b. Paul and Barnabas - Paul and Silas - Paul and Timothy (Paul was rarely alone). Christians were always in groups
 - c. Jesus and His twelve
 - d. Adam and Eve - not good that he was alone
 - e. Based upon commitment to each other and to a higher goal than just fellowship (Act 2:41-47)

There are times to be alone (John the Baptist in the wilderness before his ministry, Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, Elijah, David tending sheep, etc), but we need each other!
2. **Prayer** (3:1) "*at the hour of _____, being the ninth hour*" Peter and John had Biblically prioritized their time with the important things always getting done - like prayer here! They loved to walk with their Lord in prayer, and through His word! Loved to be together in a place that focused on prayer and preaching - church
3. An **Opportunity** (3:2,3) "*And a certain man, lame...*" This is probably the most important of the things that we as Christians have: **an opportunity to witness for Jesus!** Don't pass up the opportunities that God gives you! For example, when someone curses, or, asks "What's the good word," etc. A mature Christian is always looking out for God given opportunities to be a witness of His saving grace (1 Pet 3:15)! This beggar was over 40 years old, lame from birth (4:22)
4. **A Name** (3:4-7) "*but such as I have give I thee: In the NAME of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk*"
 - a. It is not what you know that gets you into Heaven - it is WHO you know
 - b. This name, Jesus, is the only authority we have to ask something of God (John 14:13)
 - c. It saves the sinner's soul (Rom 10:13)!
 - d. It is our authority to preach and meet as a church (Mt 18:20; Lk 24:47)
 - e. It is what we preach (Acts 8:35)!

- f. It enabled the first century Christians to establish Christianity, and the bible as authentic (Mk 16:17)
- g. It is the focus of everything the Christian does (Col 3:17)
- h. Better than a Credit Card, American Express Card because it has no limit (Phil 4:19), and has no expiration date!
- i. If you only had this name, and nothing else, then *you are rich* (Rom 8:17)

Note that this miracle was accomplished all in the **name** of Jesus Christ! *Faith in that name* (4:16)! These boys were just doing "**what they could**" and leaving the miracle up to God! See Jonah - just did what God told him to do (preached about Him, and His coming judgment), and look at the results! Peter gave him a name that would answer all his soul's needs!

- 1) The lame man leaps up (immediately his feet and ankles receive strength)
- 2) He walks with Peter and John INTO the temple - very mindful of WHO just did the miracle
- 3) Keeps leaping -up (can't get over it) and grabbing Peter, John
- 4) Praises God for that precious Name that works!
- 5) Draws everybody's attention to him, filling their hearts with amazement, and causing them to come and check him out!

This lame man is a great picture of a sinner's salvation:

Lame from his mother's womb	- Sinner from conception
Carried to the temple	- Dependant upon others to get him to God
Carried daily	- Needed someone to take him to Christ every day!
Looked to religion for help	-
Expected that material things would meet his need	-
Commanded to hear Peter's words	- Needed to hear the Gospel (not just see it in your life)
Had faith in the name of Jesus	- Trusted Christ (Eph 1:9-12)
Leaped up - instant healing	- Instant salvation
Rejoiced and enjoyed being made whole	- Brings joy and satisfaction in being made spiritually whole!
Was different from then on	- The Christian is different

- 5. **A Message** (3:12-26) They had something to say! "*And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people...*" One thing about Peter, he was always ready to give an answer of the hope that lieth in him! He had a message ready, in season, and out of season! If we are saved, we do too

C. The Message of New Testament Christianity (3:12-26)

- 1. Declare People's _____ (3:12-18) - get people "lost"
 - a. People naturally misunderstand God (3:12-13)
 - 1) Think that _____ have special powers - either they are from God, or from the devil
 - 2) Think that Jesus was just a ____ - yet everything He did was to prove that He was God come in the flesh
 - b. People are responsible for the murder of an innocent Man (3:13-15) - Religious people at that!
 - 1) YE delivered Christ to Pilate who wanted to let Him go
 - 2) YE denied Jesus a fair trial, and denied His work for you
 - 3) YE desired a murderer to be granted freedom
 - 4) YE did away with the Prince of LIFE - at least you THOUGHT that you did - Jesus got back up, and we stand here as proof that Jesus lives!
 - c. People really don't know better (3:16-18) - Are ignorant
 - 1) Ignorant of the _____ of Jesus (3:16,6; Phil 2:9-11)
 - 2) Ignorant of the work of faith (3:16)- works thru and thru
 - 3) Ignorant of the Scriptures which foretold it all (3:17,18)
- 2. Present the Necessary Conversion (3:19-26) - show them the only hope - how to be "found" - saved!
 - a. Conversion requires _____ (3:19)
 - b. Conversion releases you from the _____ for your sins - "blots out" means to cover over the sin-record with blood!
 - c. Conversion redirects attention to a Biblical view of the future (3:20-24)
 - 1) The _____ return of the Lord. Peter believed it was soon here, Paul believed it (1 Thes 4:14-17), John looked forward to it (Rev 22:20)
 - 2) The establishment of His literal kingdom on this earth - the _____ where Jesus reigns as King of kings (Rev 19:11-16; 20:2-7; Isa 9:6,7) Kingdom of heaven.

- 3) All according to the prophecies of the great lawgiver to the Jews, Moses, as well as ALL the prophets in the Old Testament - they ALL spoke of Christ:
 - a) His coming as God two times! Both are recorded!
 - b) His suffering - to the last detail is described
 - c) His reign - the glory and power
- d. Conversion realises that we are ones the Bible was written to (3:25,26), and the ones that Christ wants to save and bless! God has personally written His word to individuals, and expect personal responses (Cf the parable of the great supper in Luke 14:16-24)

III. Conclusion and Study Question