

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 74

The Book of Acts – Closing Review Overview

Acts 1:1-28:31

04/01/2018

The Book of Acts



This verse gives us the overview Outline of God's Operations, by the Holy Spirit, in the Name of Jesus Christ through the church spreading the Gospel of Christ – The Great Commission of the Church.

Acts 1:8 (Jesus said to His disciples) – “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”.

This corresponds to Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; and Luke 24:44-49

Jesus said in Luke 24:48-49 – “You are witnesses of these things. (49) And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

This was SPECIFIC Instruction for those Specific Disciples at that Specific Time in that Specific Location – to LAUNCH the Church.

But let's, First, address some things that were NEVER Mentioned at all

Looking at what was never mentioned in the book of Acts:

Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Good Friday, and Easter, etc.

Any and all Roman Catholic traditions, dogmas, rituals, yearly celebrations, etc. never mentioned.

Many today in the church (Protestants, Evangelicals included) have not idea about this. The Roman Catholic Calendar is heresy – pagan-rooted mixtures.

What many think, today is the “Christian Calendar” is really the Roman Catholic Calendar.

That which seems to be so important to “Christians” today ... is **absent** in the Bible ... The Apostles Peter, John, and Paul – never mention these traditions, nor celebrate them, etc.

The Question is → **By who's Authority, under who's Authority were these Roman Catholic Traditions invented and why (motivation)?**

The Only Authority the Body of Christ is supposed to Recognize is the Word of God → Jesus Christ through His chosen Apostles – **Acts 2:42**

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The Only Authority the Body of Christ is supposed to Recognize is the Word of God → Jesus Christ through His chosen Apostles –

Acts 2:42 → And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Continued, Steadfastly, Devoting themselves to the Apostle's Doctrine.

Where do we find the "Apostles' Doctrine"? → Roman thru Jude

We then look through the LENS of those Doctrinal Foundations to the rest of the Bible (i.e. the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Book of Acts, etc.)

Also Jude 1:3 → We are to Earnestly Contend for the FAITH Once for all delivered unto the Saints (the holy believers in Christ, the church).

An Example of How Protestants (i.e. Southern Baptists) have succumbed, more and more, to the Roman Catholic Heretical Influences:

LifeWay.com --> Searched: Lent

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I get this ... (screenshot - snippet) (2 pages of 24 Items in the search results)



A c t s

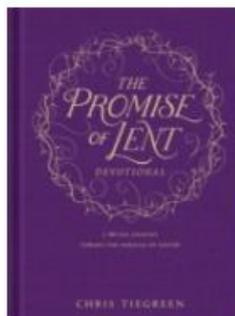
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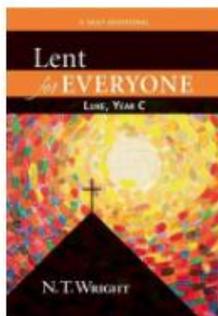
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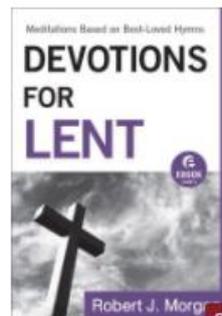
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So, if the Paganism of sinful Idolatry is INTEGRATED into Roman Catholic Heretical Doctrines and then claimed as being “Christian”

How is the Sinner to REPENT of his/her Sinful Ways (which are pagan)?

How can the Sinner TURN from his/her Wicked Ways?

Galatians 4:8-11

But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

So, if the Paganism of sinful Idolatry is **INTEGRATED** into Roman Catholic Heretical Doctrines and then claimed as being “Christian”

How is the Sinner to **REPENT** of his/her Sinful Ways (which are pagan)?

How can the Sinner **TURN** from his/her Wicked Ways?

Ezekiel 33:11 - Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the LORD God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

In that passage – it is clear that Israel was fully integrating Paganism in within their worship of Yahweh God of Israel. It was Paganistic Syncretism That is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church has done.

We must turn away from such things ... and this is why such things are not mentioned nor participated in, within the Book of Acts.

What Do we see ... We SEE JESUS Christ leading His Church forward

Acts 1:8 (Jesus said to His disciples) – “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”.

1. The MISSION is what we see as the First and Primary Overall Thrust of the Book of Acts – Jesus Christ and Spreading His Word and Message

Acts



Rome

Puteoli

Syracuse

Thessalonica

Athens

Corinth

Ephesus

Derbe

Tarsus

Antioch

Damascus

Caesarea

Jerusalem



Paul's Missions

- Journey 1
- Journey 2
- Journey 3
- Rome



ACTS only covers one important part of this spread of the Gospel

Note -> Acts does not cover the movement to the South or the East

-> Acts does not cover the work of other apostles (James, Simon, Thomas etc.)



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The Apostles Peter, James, John ... then later Paul and Paul’s Team ... Following Jesus Christ and obeying the Great Commission as the Holy Spirit encouraged them forward ... from Jerusalem outward. With all the opposition, struggles, conflict they faced, did not stop their continuous march forward with the Gospel with GREAT SACRIFICE and Courage. Spreading like Wild-Fire or an Epidemic Infection ...

**Do you see, in your own life the Importance of the Great Commission?
What sacrifices are you willing to do for the Gospel’s sake for Christ?**

2. The MISSION of the Church is Directed by the Holy Spirit ...

We see the Primary “Actor” as being the Holy Spirit – the “3rd Person” of the Trinity (the Tri-Unity of God).

In Acts 2 and Acts 13 – we see His Direct Powerful influence in Saving and in Directing Missions ...

Acts 2 – He Indwelt, Sealed, Empowered, Saved, applied Christ’s Salvation to the Disciples and Brought in the New Covenant on Earth

Acts 13:1-4 - Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit ...

God the Father sent His Son. The Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, “... as the Father sent Me, so I send you ...”

3. The MIRACULOUS MISSION of the Church

Miracles that God Provided through the Apostles, etc...

They were given to Confirm the Word of God ...

... to Confirm – to give weight to back up the Message that the Apostles were preaching (ref. Hebrews 2:4)

Galatians 3:5 – seems to suggest that this is a normal thing, or should be, within the local church family.

We see that if the church is ON MISSION – God seems to use the miraculous to “back up” and “confirm” the message we are proclaiming around us.

BUT – if we aren’t proclaiming anything – then what would God be “backing up” or “confirming”?

So, this suggests that if we want to see the miraculous we need to get out and Proclaim God’s Word / Proclaim the Gospel to the lost around us.

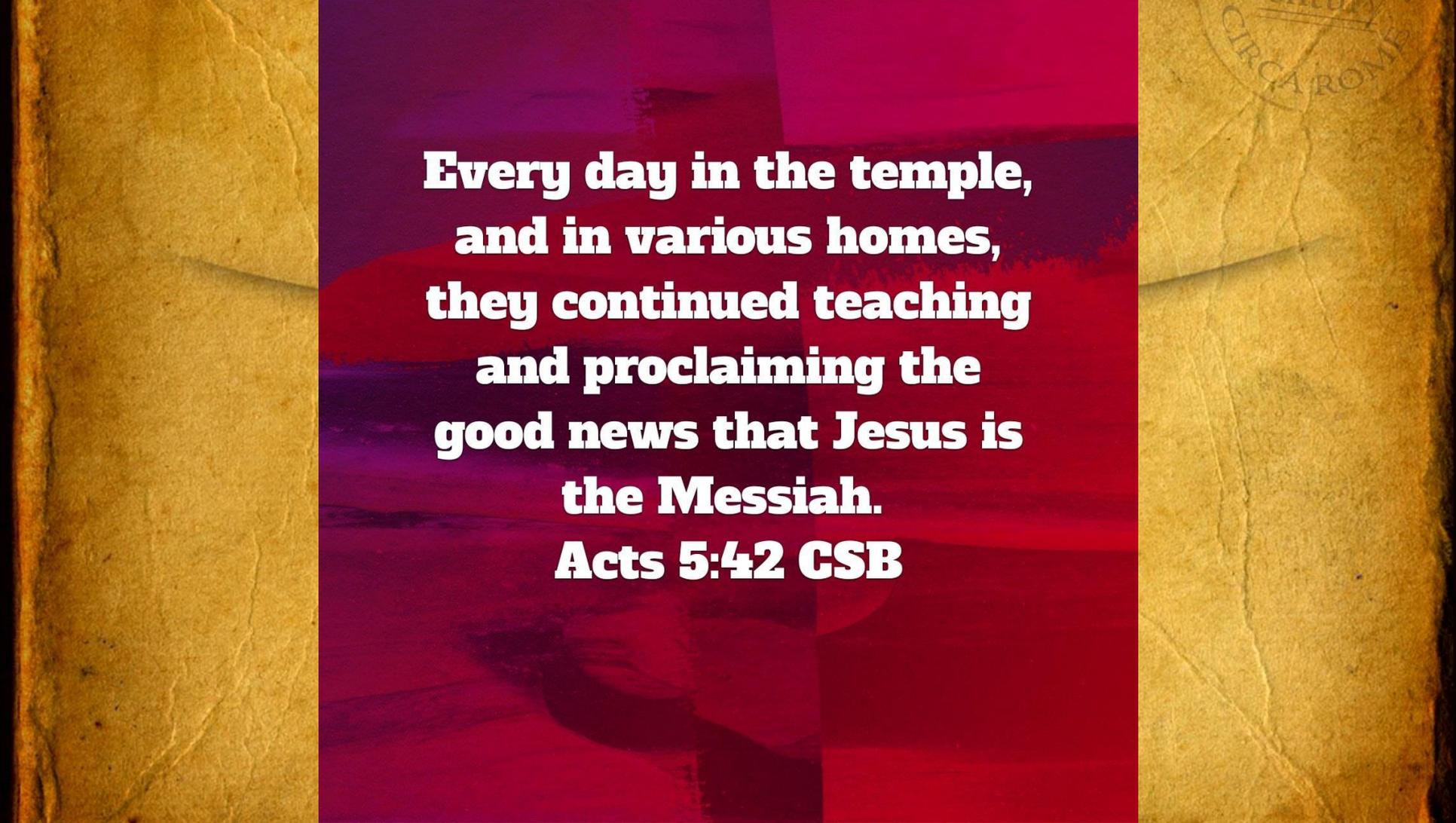
Also, to note, not every day were there miracles recorded. Sometimes when we turn the page, a few years may have passed (just to note this)

**4. The Gospel MISSION is for everyone within the Local Church
Not just some highly extraverted individuals who seem to be super gifted.**

(the whole church, all of everyone of the church of Jerusalem prayed this)
**Acts 4:29-31 - Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that
with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to
heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy
Servant Jesus.”**

**³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together
was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the
word of God with boldness.**

**They did not wait for some “hypothetical” “opportunity” that “may happen” –
they made it happen – they prayed for it to happen – they prayed to be used of
God – they prayed for God to give them boldness to Proclaim His Word – and
He did so – He filled them with His Holy Spirit and gave them Boldness,
Giftedness, and Ability to do so. Are you willing to pray this way and willing to
do whatever it takes to reach the lost around us? If you are God is ready to
supply what we would need to do so.**



**Every day in the temple,
and in various homes,
they continued teaching
and proclaiming the
good news that Jesus is
the Messiah.**

Acts 5:42 CSB

Every day in the temple,

**4. The Gospel MISSION is for everyone within the Local Church
Not just some highly extraverted individuals who seem to be super gifted.**

The whole church **Continued, Continuously, Steadfastly**

Gathering Together for Fellowship (Acts 2:42)

Meeting PUBLICLY

AND

From House To House

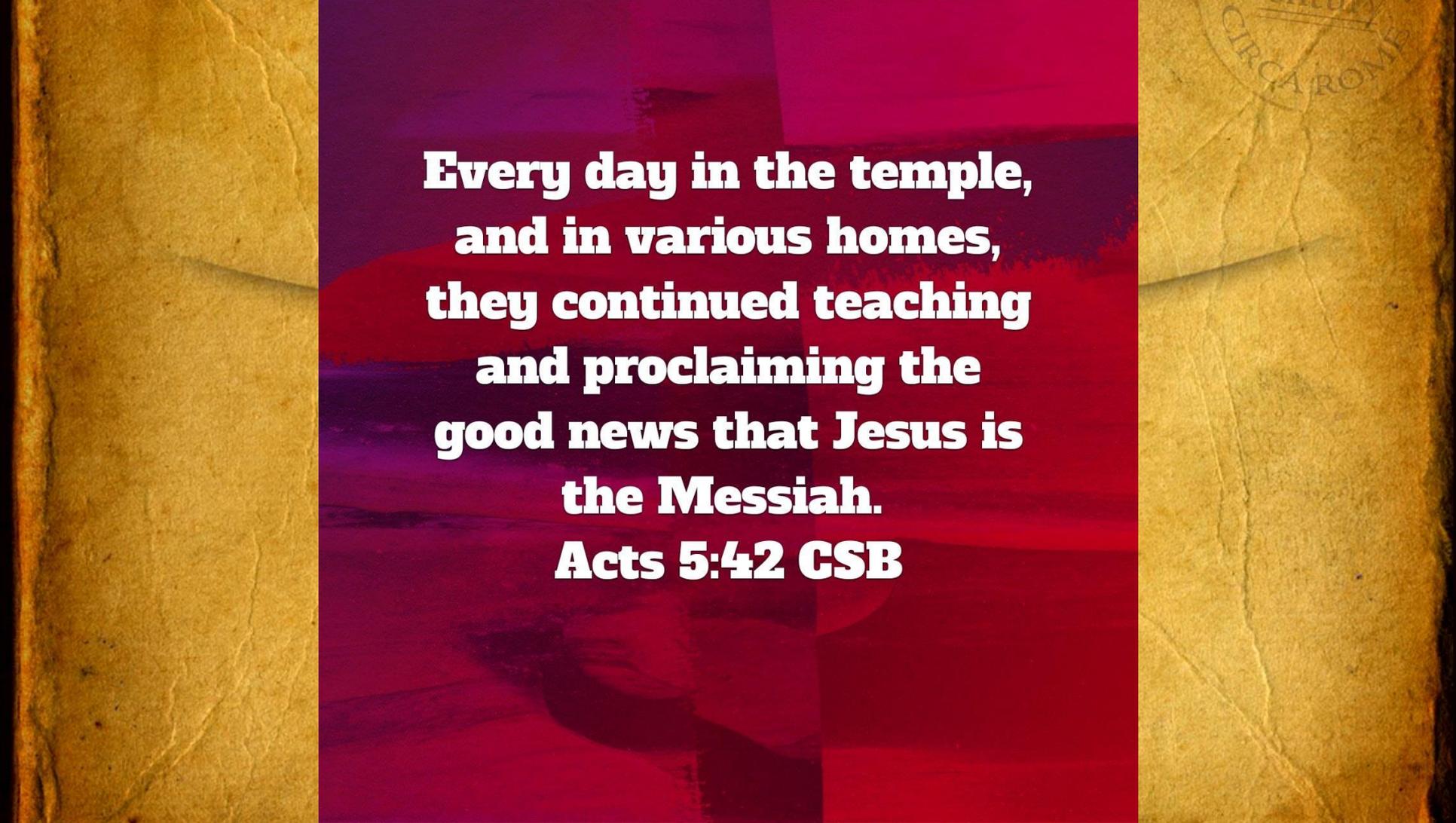
Acts 2:42-47; 5:42; 20:20

From Pentecost until the closing chapters we see this Continuous Pattern.

**It was FOR the Gospel's Sake – for Equipping, Encouragement, Edification for
the Mission → Warriors for Christ – gathering together for Training and
Equipping to go out and Conquer in the Name of Christ**

For the Gospel's Sake.

Acts 5:42 CSB



**Every day in the temple,
and in various homes,
they continued teaching
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Acts 5:42 CSB

5. The Book of Acts Ends OPEN-ENDED ...

Acts 28:30-31 - Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Acts starts out with Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Christ and closes out OPEN ENDED with Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Christ – it seems to not really End like a book would end... and that is the Point ... The Continuing Story of the Mission, the Great Commission of the Church does not End until Christ comes back for His Church after the Church has reached all the Peoples, Nations, Tongue and Tribes with the Gospel of Christ.

“Acts 29” is our story – the Story of the Church reaching to the ends of the earth with the Gospel of Christ – Acts 1:8; Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20

What is your part in it?

What are you willing to do for the Gospel's sake?