



# FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, July 11, 2021

## Report for 6/27/21

Bible Study Attendance	
Online Attendance	4
In Person Attendance	100
Total	104

Tithes and Offerings	
General Offerings	\$5,086.00
Designated Offerings	\$287.00
Total	\$5,373.00

## Prayer Needs

- \* Our country
  - \* Leadership
  - \* Kindness & Compassion
- \* Those affected by COVID/illness
  - Be sure to check on folks
- \* Our church family
  - \* Youth Camp 7/5-9
  - \* Costa Rica Mission Trip 7/9-17

## Events at Faith

**Firepit Fridays at Faith**  
7:30 pm  
Moved inside to the Faith Center  
Lifting Prayer to the Lord  
Contact Doug Spivey  
214-557-6867

**Ladies Potluck Fellowship Dinner**  
First Thursdays 6:30 - 8 PM  
Contact Laura Dawley  
972-983-9061

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
1st Sunday Each Month  
7:30 AM In the Gym

**New Ladies Bible Study**  
Women of the Word  
(A Study of John)  
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM  
Or  
Fridays at 10 AM  
Beginning May 19/21  
Room 402  
Contact Sarah Ruut  
469-323-9026

## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

July 4	Psalms 106-107	July 8	Psalms 119:89-176
July 5	Psalms 108-114	July 9	Psalms 120-132
July 6	Psalms 115-118	July 10	Psalms 133-139
July 7	Psalms 119:1-88	July 11	Psalms 140-145

## Acts 22

After the uproar of Acts 21, Paul asked to address the crowd. His message to them was simply his testimony. He shared with them how Jesus had met him on the road to Damascus and totally changed his outlook and the direction of his life. Instead of persecuting the church, he joined with Christ in being part of His Body and seeking to introduce others to his Lord.

Paul's testimony in Acts 22 serves as a good model for how we should share our own testimonies. He began with what his life looked like before he met Christ. He was zealous for his religion and sought to persecute Christians. He then shared how he came to know Jesus. The Lord appeared to him in a miraculous way, but then sent a witness named Ananias to share the Gospel with him. He believed and was forgiven and baptized. Paul finished his testimony sharing how his life changed from that point. He went from a persecutor to a preacher of the Gospel. But it was his ministry to the Gentiles that enraged the Jews who sought to silence him.

Bro. Stan Fike, Pastor

Faith Baptist Church

Please remember to pray for the following:

Our Youth at Camp Fuego in Eunice, LA

July 5-9, 2021

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Mission Trip to Liberia, Costa Rica

July 9-17, 2021

Team members: Charles Darling, Stan Fike,  
Melody Horn, Kelly Jo and Major Schuetz,  
Steven Richardson, Kayla Wheeler



*By the Book™* A Chapter by Chapter Bible Study Series from Jerry Vines Ministries  
 2295 Towne Lake Parkway  
 Suite 116 #249  
 Woodstock, GA 30189

### Let's Begin

*Upon arrival in Jerusalem, Paul was recruited to participate in a Jewish ceremony of purification. Evidently, some had charged him with teaching that Old Testament law was to be disregarded. In an effort to be conciliatory, and thus avoid the clash, Paul agreed to the temple ritual. However, the very thing he sought to avoid happened. When the dust settled, Paul was arrested. His arrest in Jerusalem served as a catalyst for him to take the Gospel to Rome.*

*In the midst of the turmoil the mob created, Paul asked the Roman officer who arrested him if he could speak (21:37). After being given permission, Paul stunned the crowd by speaking to them in Hebrew (21:40). At this point, it was clear Paul was interested in one thing: sharing the difference Jesus Christ made in his life. He gave them his experiential testimony with Christ.*

*Chapter 22 focuses on the Christ of experience. As we make our way through this chapter, let's follow the outline below:*

- I. Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Ourselves (vv. 1-9)**
- II. Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Our Savior (vv. 10-11)**
- III. Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Our Society (vv. 12-30)**

### I. Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Ourselves (vv. 1-9)

To the group attempting to take his life, Paul gave a faithful and fearless witness concerning Jesus Christ. Paul's example stands as a stellar model for us. We can witness for Christ in hard places. Whether it is school, job, or social gatherings, the same Holy Spirit who empowered and sustained Paul will be with you and me (Matt. 10:17-20).

Observe: Paul could have testified about the Christ of history. Christian faith rests upon facts, not fantasy. As worthy a subject as this is, Paul did not choose to speak about it. Paul could have testified concerning the Christ of doctrine, focusing on the atonement and justification by faith. He didn't. He could have discussed the Christ of Scripture, zeroing in on the prophetic testimony of the Old Testament (cp. Acts 10:43). He could have even spoken about the Christ of other people's experience — Peter, Lydia, the Philippian jailor, and a host of others whom he had personally known who had been changed by the Gospel. He spoke concerning none of those. Rather he told of his own personal experience with Christ. It was *real*; it was *rich*; it was *relevant*.

Perhaps the most powerful argument for Christianity is our personal experience with Christ. The Apostle Paul speaks of his personal experience, "Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you" (v. 1). No cynic or unbeliever can answer a *changed* life (cp. Phil. 1:17; 1 Pet. 3:15). Paul's experience with Jesus changed him completely. And, the first way it changed him concerned his personal view of himself.

Observe Paul's testimony as he began with his *pre-salvation* identity as Saul. In essence, beginning before he came to Christ was Paul's way of identifying with his audience. It

#### Reflection Connection

*Reflect upon your own conversion experience. Could you describe your personal experience as real, rich, and relevant? Why or why not?*



was like he was saying, "I was once like you." Placing one's self in the shoes of those to whom our testimony is given is a basic strategy to sharing Christ. Luke records Paul's words, "I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, *and* taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day" (v. 3).

Paul had been proud of his race, his resources, and even his religion. His whole life was bound up in being faithful to his spiritual heritage as a Jew. Nevertheless Paul came to a place in his life where he realized none of those things was sufficient to save him. People try everything to gain salvation. When Paul met Jesus, every self-effort to define salvation was swept completely away.

Next Paul spoke of his *post-salvation* experience. When he met Jesus on the Damascus road, he was blinded by the light. Yet he saw himself with new eyes (vv. 5-7). Afterward, he would never be the same (vv. 1 Tim. 1:13, 15). What you think about yourself reveals your relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition, we must remember Jesus came to save only one kind of people — sinners (Matt. 9:13). The question is, do you qualify?

### Reflection Connection

*What is the difference between respect for one's heritage and depending on one's heritage to gain favor with God? Explain.*

## II. Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Our Savior (vv. 10-11)

Paul changed his mind and attitude about the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon seeing Jesus, Paul could do no other than bow to Him as Lord, "And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest... And I said, What shall I do, Lord?" (vv. 8-10). Formerly Paul had viewed Jesus as a deceiver, another impostor posing as a messiah. Furthermore Paul was convinced Jesus was dead. Now, however, he discovered Jesus was Deity.

Every person must consider whether or not Jesus Christ was and is whom the Bible reveals. When it comes down to it, there are four options available. First, Jesus Christ was only a *legend*. In other words, He was a myth, little more than a fabrication of deceived men and women. Second, Jesus was a *lunatic*. Simply put, He was the type of person who deserved a straitjacket.

A third option concerning Jesus' identity is that He was a *liar*. He knew who He was but He posed as someone else. He blatantly falsified His identity, duping His closest disciples. Finally, Jesus was and is *Lord*. If Jesus was real and neither a lunatic or a liar, He must have been Lord! No other option is available.

How can we know His reality? One way — the only way — is personal experience. We could use logic; or, we could use the canons of historical research.

*Every person must consider whether or not Jesus Christ was and is whom the Bible reveals.*

### Reflection Connection

*Think back to your own pre-Christian days. What were your thoughts about the Gospel? How did you view Jesus? How did you understand a person's relationship to God?*



Yet the bottom line is, the only way you will ever know Him is to meet Him personally.

Not only do we consider the *reality* of the Savior, but we also consider the *authority* of the Savior. Paul asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" Meeting Jesus immediately led Paul to bow to Him as Lord. After all, if Jesus is alive as the Bible says He is, and as Paul testifies He is, He must be Lord! (Rom. 14:9). As Lord, He has absolute authority (Matt. 28:18). When Paul met Him he could no longer ignore Him, nor could he remain indifferent to His commands. Neither can we.

*Every believer must understand what His authority means to daily life.*

### Reflection Connection

*Can you say with confidence Jesus is Lord of your life? Why or why not? Are there any reservations you possess in allowing Him to be Lord in every area of your life? Be specific and be honest.*

Every believer must understand what His authority means to daily life. His Lordship means surrender, a fundamental yieldedness in allowing Him supreme sway in every decision we make. Indeed if Lordship is not a priority, a person must evaluate his or her heart-relationship, pursuing the possibility that Jesus has never been Savior either. Someone put it like this: *if Jesus is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all. In the end obedience matters.*

## II Our Personal Experience with Christ Changes the Perception We Have of Our Society (vv. 12-30)

Thus far we've noted how our personal experience with Christ changes the perception we have not only of ourselves but also of our Savior. As we move along in chapter 22, let's consider how our personal experience with Jesus transforms the view we have of our community, our society.

After Paul was converted, Jesus commissioned him to take the great commission seriously. Paul's gifts would especially be effective among non-Jewish people, "And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles" (v. 21). Once commissioned, Paul never looked back.

### Reflection Connection

*What do you think is the main spiritual gift you possess? Is there any one specific area in which your gift is particularly applicable? Explain.*

Paul's particular circumstances and the call which Jesus placed upon his life are amazing. The fact is he loathed all men (cp. 1 Thess. 2:15). Before he met Jesus his life was like a storm of hatred. He was "exceedingly mad" against them. We learn this when Paul later stood before Agrippa, "And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities" (26:11).

Prejudice against other people is a horrible sin against both God and humanity. Every person is made in God's image and therefore deserves a measure of respect. To deny anyone the Gospel is a cosmic crime. Unfortunately, hate is the moral standard of the world. Jesus warned His disciples to expect the world's hate, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated you*" (John 15:18).

After Paul met Christ, his inner attitude and frame of mind were thoroughly transformed from the previous hate he possessed. He found himself loving all



### Reflection Connection

*Describe your attitude about people of other races. Do you think there are barriers still in place in our culture which hinder acceptance of all people? Why or why not? What areas could your group work on which would demonstrate a visible acceptance of all people?*

### Golden Greek Nugget

In verse 28, with pride the Roman officer explained to the Apostle Paul his freedom which he'd purchased. The term translated "freedom" is the Greek word "*politeia*," the word from which we get our English term "politics." It literally means "citizenship." The only other time in the New Testament the term is used concerns Paul's exhortation to the Gentile church at Ephesus to consider that at one time, they held no "citizenship" among God's people (Eph. 2:12). Through the Gospel, walls were torn down and Gentiles became citizens of heaven through the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:14-22).

men and caring immensely for society. Paul's inner transformation was perfectly reflected in verse 15, "For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard." The love Paul would have for the world was beyond anything he ever imagined (cp. 1 John 3:1). He was overwhelmed by a love which could include him despite his hatred and sin. When the love of Jesus fills one's heart, love for others is no longer an option.

First, we are to love all *classes* of men. It makes no difference whether people are rich or poor. The "up and out" need Jesus just as desperately as the "down and out." Often our shield of pride prohibits us from ministering to poverty-stricken people. Unfortunately, some churches have a tendency to want only those members who fit their particular notch on the socio-economic scale. The Gospel condemns such sinful, pride-filled attitudes toward people made in God's image. Jesus died for all people. Therefore, all people must hear the Gospel and be given an opportunity to heed the Gospel.

*When the love of Jesus fills one's heart, love for others is no longer an option.*

Second, we are to love all *cultures* of men. The younger generation many times is offensive to the older generation. Their music, their way of dress, their rebellious attitudes are an understandable "turn-off" to many Christians. Nevertheless, the Gospel calls us to offer them the same free grace God offered us in Jesus Christ. Jesus loves them no matter what they look like or sound like. We were transformed when the Gospel invaded our lives. No less will they be transformed! But until they receive the Gospel, transformation is impossible.

Third, we are to love all *countries* of men. Paul was sent as a witness "unto all men." So are we. Our compassion cannot be limited to our community, nor our city, nor our county, nor even our country. We must have a worldwide compassion. The question we all face concerns the bigness of our heart. How big is your heart? Is it as big as God's?

### Wrap Up

*The Christ of experience transforms our lives. After meeting Jesus it is impossible to remain the same. The perspective we have toward ourselves changes. We no longer see ourselves as self-righteous. Instead we see ourselves as sinners in need of constant grace.*

*In addition, our perception toward our Savior changes. Jesus is no longer a good man, not even a great man. Once we meet Him, we see Him as He really is—the Son of the living God. And, the Son of the living God has become our Lord and Savior. Finally, our perspective toward society is forever transformed. We now see, after meeting Jesus, society can be changed one heart at a time through preaching the Gospel.*

