

September 1, 2013

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Today: Acts 1** – Ministry ownership change – *it is our turn in church history!*

"The Book of Acts is basically the record of three aspects of the Holy Spirit's work:

- ✓ Empowered Gospel preaching
- ✓ Thousands of conversions, and
- ✓ The consistent establishment of local churches."

-- Mack M. Tomlinson (*author of the Ravenhill Biography*)

## FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Title Means: DEEDS; WORKS; LABOR – of the Apostles

Chapters: **28** Verses: **1,007** Words: **24,250** Prov 30:5-6; Ps 12:6-7; Deut 17:14-20

Author: **Luke** Notes: See Acts 1:1 and Luke 1:1-4. Luke is a physician...he is a detail man! This makes him best suited to write the Acts of the Apostles.

Historical Time Span: Approximately 65 AD to 70 AD

Theme: The setting aside of Israel (temporarily), the revealing and establishment of the church, and the gospel of the grace of God.

## THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. Historical Luke writes to Theophilus (Acts 1:1) about Israel's final rejection of the kingdom of heaven and records the movement of the **HOLY GHOST** through the church to a primarily Gentile world. It is a **TRANSITIONAL** book (from Jews to Gentiles, from Jerusalem to Antioch, from Peter to Paul, etc.)
2. Doctrinal The events of Acts will be repeated again during the **TRIBULATION** period by the 144,000 Jewish virgin witnesses. Just like the apostle Paul in Acts, so will the 144,000 witnesses be.
3. Devotional Jesus leaves and replaces Himself with His Spirit. The church takes place with the Word of God. We must not fail to do our part to finish all that Jesus began both to **DO** and **TEACH**.

**NOTE:** The book of Acts is the **foundation** for church history. Read it often, make yourself a copy, study it, and teach it until the Rapture. Most false religions take something from the book of Acts and make it doctrine not knowing that it is a **transitional** book!

## OUTLINE STRUCTURE – by chapter

Chapters 1-7 The Kingdom of heaven is offered again and refused by Israel's leaders.

Chapters 8-28 The Kingdom of God is preached and spread throughout the world.

September 1, 2013

Key from *How to Study the Bible*: Always **be willing to change** what you believe or have been taught when it goes contrary to what the Bible clearly says.

Scripture focus for Today: **Acts 1:1-14**

## PRINCIPLES

1. Jesus showed Himself **alive** after His passion by **MANY infallible proofs.** 1:1-3
  - ✓ Luke recorded **all** that Jesus did and taught as God had revealed it to him...
  - ✓ Jesus was visibly and physically seen of the disciples for **forty** days...
  - ✓ Jesus was speaking to them about the kingdom of God...
2. Jesus said they would be **WITNESSES** of Him through the **power** of the **Holy Spirit.** 1:4-8
  - ✓ Jesus said they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit and to wait for Him...
  - ✓ The disciples were interested in the earthly, physical kingdom...
  - ✓ Jesus said they were to "be witnesses" unto Him from home to the uttermost...
3. Jesus **LEFT.** 1:9
  - ✓ The Bible says He was taken up and that a cloud received Him out of their sight...
4. The disciples were told that Jesus was **coming BACK again** in the clouds. 1:10-14
  - ✓ The disciples were **gazing** into heaven from the Mount of Olives...
  - ✓ The angels said that He was going **to come back again** from that very place...
  - ✓ The disciples **assembled together** as they were commanded by Jesus...
  - ✓ All of the disciples present **continued** with one accord in **prayer**...
  - ✓ The disciples understood that it was now **their job** to advance the work of Christ...

## PRACTICES

1. We must **believe** that Jesus Christ came out of that tomb defeating sin and death.
  - ✓ Have you repented of your sins and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
  - ✓ Have you forgotten what your Savior has done for you?
2. We must be **faithful witnesses** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ✓ Have you been a faithful witness?
  - ✓ Are you so entangled in the affairs of this life that the world cannot see the Savior?
3. We must do **our part** in church history – it is indeed our turn!!
  - ✓ Are you equipped to take part in the great commission from our great God and Savior?
  - ✓ Do you need to be disciplined so that you can fear God and obey His words in all matters?
  - ✓ Our church will help to prepare you to accomplish God's great work for His glory!!

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Today: Acts 1 *continued*** – Ministry ownership change – *it is time to start thinking bigger!*

**Key from *How to Study the Bible*:** Always ***be willing to change*** what you believe or have been taught when it goes contrary to what the Bible clearly says.

*Scripture focus for Today: Acts 1:15-26*

## PRINCIPLES

1. There were only about **120 disciples** at this time in church history. 1:15

- ✓ Jesus had ministered to ***thousands***, healed ***thousands***, and fed ***thousands***...  
Matthew 14:21; 15:38; Luke 9:1-17
- ✓ There will always be a ***remnant*** of God's people for the ***next generation***...  
Luke 17:11-19; Romans 11:4; 1 Kings 19:18; 2 Kings 19:30-31; Ezra 3:8; 9:8, 14; Isaiah 1:9; 11:16

2. Peter's **authority** for preaching to the disciples was the holy **SCRIPTURES**. 1:15-20

- ✓ It was time for Peter to ***stand*** and ***speak*** and ***intercede*** on God's behalf...  
Acts 5:20; Exodus 8:20; Ezekiel 22:30
- ✓ It is important to note that Peter is now ***referencing*** the Scriptures as his authority...  
2 Peter 1:16-20; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 4:1-11; Acts 28:25; Romans 3:2; 15:4; Hebrews 4:12
- ✓ Peter knew that the ***Holy Ghost*** was the ***author*** of the Scriptures...  
2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Mark 12:36; Acts 3:18; Acts 28:25; Hebrews 3:7; 9:8; 10:15
- ✓ Peter knew that Judas had ***fulfilled*** the ***prophecies*** in the Scriptures concerning him...  
Matthew 26:54, 56; John 10:35; 12:38-40; 19:28-30, 36
- ✓ Judgment came to Judas for his ***betrayal*** and ***murder*** of the Lord Jesus Christ...  
Matthew 12:36-37; John 3:12-21, 36; Galatians 6:7; Jude (all); Job 4:8, 15:31; Proverbs 1:31; Hosea 8:7; 10:12; Romans 2:1-16; Ephesians 5:6

3. A ministry **OWNER** was needed to be a ***witness*** of Christ's resurrection. 1:21-26

- ✓ The requirement had to be someone who had ***companied with Jesus all the time***...  
Matthew 10:1-6; Luke 10:1, 2; John 15:27
- ✓ They appointed two men and then ***God made the final choice clear***...  
Matthew 20:16; 22:14; 1 Corinthians 1:26; 1 Timothy 3:1

**PRACTICES**

1. We must be the *faithful remnant* of the church at this time in church history.
  - ✓ John 6:67 – Then Jesus said unto the twelve, Will you also go away?
  - ✓ Do you need to repent of some kind of unfaithfulness or disobedience today?
2. We must *go, stand and speak* God's holy Scriptures as our *final authority* in all matters.
  - ✓ Where has God revealed to you that you need to speak His truth to others?
  - ✓ Are you ready and willing to stand in the gap for the glory of our great God and Savior?
3. We must be *owners of God's ministry* at this time in church history.
  - ✓ Has God revealed to you a need to commit to a greater level of ministry ownership?
  - ✓ Do you need to be discipled so that you can know what the Bible says and obey Him?
  - ✓ Our church will help to prepare you to accomplish God's great work for His glory!!

**\*\* MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events \*\***

1. **New Members Class** – there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for our first new Members class starting on Sunday, 10/6 from 9-10am (6 weeks)
2. **How to Study the Bible** – there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for our first Wednesday night Bible study starting on Wednesday, 10/2 from 7-8pm (12 weeks)
3. **Prayer Meeting** – we must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13) – we will begin having a corporate time of prayer each week beginning on Wednesday, 10/2 at 6:30pm

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Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Key from *How to Study the Bible*:

There is **no** understanding of the Bible without a proper understanding of **context**. Never, never, never take a verse out of its setting and give it a foreign meaning!

Scriptures for Today: Acts 2:1-47 – The promised Holy Ghost arrives – *beware of these Jewish tongues!*

**PRINCIPLES**

1. The **Holy Ghost** arrived as **PROMISED** on the **Jewish** feast day of **Pentecost**. 2:1-4

- ✓ The **Jewish** apostles were gathered together waiting to **receive** the **Holy Ghost**...  
Acts 1:4-5; John 7:39; 14:16, 26; Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Numbers 28:16-31; 1Corinthians 16:8

**NOTE** The context of this passage is **Jewish**. It is the solemn **Jewish** feast day of Pentecost. This feast was kept in remembrance of the giving of the law upon Mount Sinai. The **Jewish** apostles (Acts 1:15-26) are gathered together to receive the Holy Ghost, which their **Jewish** Messiah had promised them would come. They are in **Jerusalem**. There are **no Gentiles present**. Any Gentiles that may be there have **become Jews** (called "proselytes" in Acts 2:10). Peter, the apostle to the **Jews** (Galatians 2:7-8), stands up and preaches a message that is derived from the **Jewish** OT (which was not the OT at that time in history, but rather the whole Bible.)

2. The **Jewish** disciples began to preach God's truth with **other TONGUES**. 2:5-13

- ✓ **Jews** had come to **Jerusalem** for **Pentecost** from **every nation** under heaven...  
Acts 2:5
- ✓ The **Jewish** disciples were speaking **known, spoken, understandable languages** which were **foreign to the speaker, but understood** by others that were present...  
Acts 2:6-13

**NOTE** "Tongues" are **not** an unintelligible language. No one in the entire Bible spoke in an unknown, unspoken, unintelligible language (except for possibly the troubled church in Corinth – see 1 Cor 14). The Bible says that "tongues" are for a sign (1 Cor 14:22) ... and that **Jews** require a sign (1 Cor 1:22)!!

3. Peter **stood up** (with the eleven) and **preached** Christ **CRUCIFIED** to the **Jews**. 2:14-36

- ✓ Peter, **expecting Christ to return any moment**, preached **the day of the Lord**...  
"Ye men of Judaea" Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2; Revelation 6:12; 8:5, 7-12

**NOTE** Peter does not say that this is an absolute fulfillment of Joel's prophesy, but rather what they see (and have seen in the life of Christ) is **the NT unfolding and the beginning of OT prophesy taking place**. Remember, Peter's message does not end until verse 36 – he **keeps preaching** after telling them that what they see is the same stuff Joel wrote about! It is important to put Joel's quote in the context of Peter's message. Peter has been talking about what is taking place between the Resurrection and the Second Coming. Joel was quoted to show the **Jews** what would take place before the **Jewish** Messiah came back to reign on David's throne...and **that throne was connected to that man the Jews had crucified** ...and Peter is expecting all this to happen **at any time**, maybe any moment...see Matthew 24:29 and Acts 1:11. He has **no idea** about the "body of Christ" or anything "Christian"...This is all **Jewish** stuff, but now in the NT not in the OT!!

- ✓ Peter said that Jesus **confirmed His identity** with **signs** which **Jews require to believe...**  
"Ye men of Israel" Acts 2:22; 1 Corinthians 1:22

**KEY** The Bible clearly teaches that "tongues" are for a **sign** to **unbelieving Jews!**

- ✓ Peter preached **Christ crucified as fact** and said that the **Jews knew it to be true...**  
"Ye men of Israel" Acts 2:22; 10:37; 26:26; Matthew 11:2-6; Luke 24:18; John 3:2; 7:31; 10:37;  
11:47; 12:17; 14:10,11; 15:24; Hebrews 2:4
- ✓ Peter preached that the **Jews were guilty of the murder and treason** of Almighty God...  
Acts 2:23; Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:4, 15
- ✓ Peter preached Christ's **death** and **resurrection** as **fulfillment** of the **Jewish Scriptures...**  
Acts 2:24-36; "the (Jewish) patriarch David"; Matthew 26:56

**NOTE** Peter dropped the hammer on them – **they had just crucified their Lord and their Messiah!** Acts 2:36

#### 4. The guilty **Jews**, realizing their **CRIMES** before a holy God, asked for the remedy. 2:37-47

- ✓ The **Jews** asked, "**What shall we do?**"

**NOTE** They were **not Gentiles** after Acts 10, and they did **not** say, "What must I do to be **saved**?" They asked what they had to **do** as **Jews that had just murdered their Messiah** to be made right with their God. The primarily Gentile church should be going to the Church and Pastoral Epistles (Romans through Titus...written by Paul who was the **Apostle to the Gentiles**, Gal 2:7-8) for clear directions on **how we Gentiles at this time in history** are to be **saved from the wrath to come**. **The primarily Gentile church at this time in history should not be getting doctrine for salvation from this Jewish portion of Acts!!**

- ✓ Peter told the **Jews** to **repent**, and be **baptized** in the name of Christ **for the remission of sins...**
- ✓ Peter also said the **Jews** would **then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit** as **Jews in transition...**
- ✓ The **Jews** that **gladly received Peter's word** were baptized, and thousands were added to them...

### PRACTICES

#### 1. What **truth from the Bible** has God made clear to you today that you must **believe**?

- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak today's truth** to someone in your life this week?

#### 2. What has God revealed to you today related to your **crimes against Him**?

- ✓ Have you **not repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- ✓ Have you been **humble** and **repentant** towards God on a daily basis being **thankful**?

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Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Key from *How to Study the Bible*:

There is no correct understanding of the Bible without understanding that the Bible is written to **THREE** types of people – Jews, Gentiles and the Church. The Church began on the cross (*Ephesians 2:16*). **NOTE** – the entire Bible is written **FOR** you, but not all the Bible is written **TO** you!

Scriptures for Today: Acts 3:1-26 – Intentional Evangelism – *the message is the key, not the miracle!*

## PRINCIPLES

1. Peter and John went up **together to intentionally WITNESS** to **strangers**. 3:1

- ✓ The Bible says they went **into the temple** – where **Jews** were assembled...  
Mark 6:7; Ecclesiastes 4:9; Deut 17:6; 19:15; Mt 18:16; 2 Cor 13:1; Heb 10:28-31

**NOTE** The context of this passage continues to be clearly **Jewish**. The focus for the apostles is still the **Jews**. Peter and John go into the temple to engage **Jews** – that were **strangers** to them personally – as a faithful witness **must** with the intent to have **grave discussions** related to cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. An **OPPORTUNITY** was **clearly presented** for them to be a **witness** for Christ. 3:2-10

- ✓ A **certain** man lame from his mother's womb is the opportunity – **everyone** knew him...  
Acts 3:2
- ✓ God used Peter to accomplish a **miracle** for all to see – a **sign** for the **unbelieving Jews**...  
"wonder and amazement"; 1 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 2:7 "they were all amazed and marveled"

**NOTE** The Bible says that that **Jews require a sign** (1 Cor 1:22). This is a **1<sup>st</sup> Century early church** miracle custom made for the **Jews** present so there would be **no excuse**. It was a **sign** for the **Jews** so they would know that **the messenger was from God**, and they were expected to **hear his message!**

3. Peter **immediately** turned the focus from the **miracle** to the **MESSAGE**. 3:11-26

- ✓ The initial aim of his message was their **individual and personal sins against God**...  
"whom **ye delivered up**, and **denied him**", "**ye denied** the Holy One and the Just...and **killed** the Prince of life"; Romans 1:16-2:16; Mark 10:17-27; Romans 7:7
- ✓ Peter said they had broken God's Law by **denying and murdering His Son, the Lord**...  
Exodus 20:1-26; Mt 5; 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:19-20; 7:7; Galatians 3:19-25; James 2:8-12

**NOTE** This is Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> installment as a witness ("whereof we are witnesses", 1<sup>st</sup> was Acts 2:32).

- ✓ Peter said it was the man's **faith in the name of Jesus Christ** that made him whole...  
Matthew 9:22; 15:28; Mk 5:34; 10:52; Lk 8:48; 17:19; Acts 20:21; 26:20; Rom 10:9-13
- ✓ Peter said that the result of his **faith** in Christ was **perfect soundness** which was visible...  
Luke 8:35; Hebrews 2:15; 1 Peter 1:22; Galatians 5:22-23

4. Peter **commanded** them to **repent** because the Day of **JUDGMENT** was coming. 3:17-26

- ✓ Peter told them to **repent** and **be converted** that their sins may be blotted out...  
Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20
- ✓ Peter said "*the times of refreshing*" would come for those that **repent and trust Christ**...  
Revelation 5:11-14, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain..."; Rev 21, 22
- ✓ Peter said "*the times of restitution of all things*" would also **surely come**...  
Revelation 19:11-21;

**NOTE** Peter said that **all of God's prophets** spoke of Christ's suffering – which He also fulfilled. He also said that **all of God's prophets** have spoken of **The Day of the Lord** – since the world began. This is that great and terrible day of God's wrath and judgment (Isa 13:13; 22:5; Jer 4:9; Lam 1:12; Ezek 30:2-3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; Amos 5:18, 20, 8:3; Obadiah 1:8, 15; Micah 5:10; Nahum 1:7; Zeph 1:7, 14, 2:1-3; Zech 12:4, 8, 14:3, 13; 14:20-21) when Jesus comes back in all His glory to take back what is rightfully His – by taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess 1:7-9). Noah preached coming judgment as did **Jesus** and the apostles. Jude preached it hard noting the all **ungodly** sinners will perish. He even said it was Enoch's message – the **7<sup>th</sup>** from **Adam!!**

- ✓ Peter's conclusion was simple – **every soul** must hear and **OBEY** Christ or **perish**...  
Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Heb 9:27; Rom 2:5, 16; 2 Tim 4:1, 8; Gen 18:25; Lk 13:3, 5

**NOTE** The Day of Judgment is the very **reason** men are **commanded to repent by God** (Acts 17:30-31). Judgment Day is the climax of the ages (Ps 96:11-13). It is the day that the whole creation eagerly awaits, an event for which the very ground cries out. It has done so from the blood of Abel and will continue to the end of this age. God loves justice – and He will have it. All those who have ever broken even just 1 of God's commandments (James 2:10) will be guilty on that day and will suffer eternal punishment in a literal place called hell. The only hope for a wretched, poor, and destitute sinner is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood which was shed to take away our sins.

## PRACTICES

1. What **truth from the Bible** has God made clear to you today that you **must believe**?

- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak today's truth** to someone in your life this week?

2. What has God revealed to you today related to **Judgment Day**?

- ✓ Are you ready for **that** Day? Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ Has **Judgment Day** been the focal point of your message when witnessing? It should be.

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Key from *How to Study the Bible*:

The Bible is **not** difficult to understand. We make it difficult by **not believing every word** we read. Anyone can get it. There is **no** special secret or magic formula. The disciples were **common men**, not scholars. God wrote the Bible to **reveal truth, not hide it!**

## Scriptures for Today: Acts 4:1-37 –

The Enemy's Pattern – *opposition brings prayer and power through the Holy Spirit!*

## NOTES

## PRINCIPLES

1. As Peter and John **spoke**, the **religious** leaders were **gathered AGAINST** them. 4:1-6

- ✓ They were **grieved** that they: 1) **taught** the people, and 2) **preached** Christ crucified...  
Matthew 12:14; 26:59; Mark 14:55; 15:1; Luke 22:66; John 11:47; Acts 5:21, 27, 34, 41; 6:12, 15

**NOTE** Acts is the foundation for Church History. We clearly see God working and then now we see a clear and deliberate "gathering together" of so-called "religious" leaders and people in direct opposition to the work of God and His faithful servants. This gathering is called the "council" in Acts 4:15 and is the beginning of what will be used all through Church History to come against God's work and God's Word.

- ✓ Remember when enemy **attacks** come, **many** of them which **heard the word believed**...  
Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23

2. An opportunity was **presented** for them to be a **WITNESS** for Christ. 4:7-14

- ✓ Peter once again preached Christ **crucified** and **salvation only** through **faith** in Christ...  
Acts 1:8; 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20; Galatians 3:21-24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Titus 3:5-6

**NOTE** Peter's power source was the filling of the Holy Ghost. He did not get more of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost **got more of him!** He was under attack from the religious leaders who crucified their Messiah and he was willing to make another installment as a witness for Christ. He **did not waiver** from his message. He preached Christ crucified. He preached Christ resurrected. He preached that there was no salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby **we must be saved!**

- ✓ The **boldness** of these **common men** in God and a **changed life** could not be refuted. The Bible says, "they marveled" and "took knowledge of them" and **remembered Jesus**...  
Mark 12:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; John 3:1-2; Luke 8:35; John 9:3

3. The religious people **KNEW** the truth and **chose** to **deny** Christ and God. 4:15-22

- ✓ There was **no doubt** that the miracle was done and true because **all** in Jerusalem **saw** it...  
Acts 4:16; John 11:47, 48; 12:18; Luke 6:10, 11

**NOTE** Mark it down. **PRIDE** was the motivating factor behind the religious leaders and people. For them to **acknowledge the truth** would mean true **repentance** toward God and **faith** toward the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:22-26). Don't be fooled!! These men knew the truth (Rom 1:16-32; 3:18), and they **chose** to **REJECT** and **OPPOSE GOD!!** The Bible says that you have done the same thing...

- ✓ The religious people resorted to trying to **manipulate** them through **fleshly fear**...  
Acts 4:17, 21; 2 Peter 2; Jude
- ✓ Peter and John chose to **obey** and **fear God more** than men...  
Jude 1:16; John 12:43; Matthew 21:26; 28:4; Acts 13:16; 1 Peter 2:17

4. Peter and John's **testimony** to the **CHURCH** led to **greater** ministry **ownership**. 4:23-37

- ✓ They reported back to the church ("their company") all that was said and **praise, prayer,** and **powerful witnessing** followed...  
Acts 14:27-28

**NOTE** This is important, and it is a pattern for us to follow. Your Gospel stories and mine matter!! Paul did this after each missionary journey. Be humble, and **SHARE** your stories with others to help them and their stories will in turn help you to have boldness in our God to **SPEAK** up on His behalf! The opposition from the enemy caused God's people to pray and empty themselves out to God which led to the Holy Ghost having more of them and they in turn having the power source to be powerful witnesses for Christ.

- ✓ They were willing to part with **earthly possessions** for the **eternal cause** of Christ...  
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 6:33-34

## PRACTICES

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- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak** today's truth to others this week?

2. What has God revealed to you today related to **your personal life**?

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ Have you been a **faithful witness** to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ?

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3. **Prayer Meeting** We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13) – we will begin having a corporate time of prayer each week beginning on **Wednesday, 10/2 at 6:30pm**
4. **Open House** The month of October is a **"Grand Opening"** to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺