

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

16th-21st February 2015
Acts



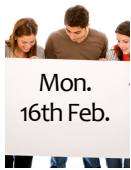
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Go, for he is a chosen
instrument of mine
to carry my name
before the Gentiles and kings
and the children of Israel.
Acts 9:15b

reading notes

Acts 8:18-25 - Life With God Can't Be Bought On Our Terms

Simon watches with amazement as the apostles slowly and deliberately put their hands on these people, and they receive the Holy Spirit. As a magician he has been amazing people in Samaria with his evil powers for years, but he has never seen anything like this before. There's only one thought in his head - I must get that power. So he offers to buy it from the apostles. He hasn't got a hope. Money can buy many things, but it can't buy a relationship with God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peter is angry. How dare Simon think that he can buy what God gives as a free gift. Peter makes it very clear to Simon that he can have nothing to do with the Church because in his heart he doesn't love God. There's only one option open to Simon and that's for him to repent of his sin and pray to God for mercy.

It's obvious that what Peter says to Simon frightens him because he asks Peter to pray for him so that God won't harm him. But note, Simon doesn't do what Peter tells him to do, he doesn't repent of his sin and plead with God for mercy. How stupid can he be!

The apostles then return to Jerusalem, preaching on their way through Samaria.

questions

1. What did Simon want to buy?
2. What does this tell us about Simon?
3. What did Peter tell Simon to do? Did he do it?

Ps. 105:7-12

praise pray

1. Give thanks to God that eternal life is a free gift that anyone can receive if they repent of their sin and have faith in the Lord Jesus.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading

Acts 9:19-25 - Everyone is Amazed at Saul Preaching of Christ

notes

Saul now spends some time with the Christians living in Damascus. Imagine being there and getting introduced to Saul. For weeks you've been hearing about what this man has been doing to the Christians in Jerusalem. Then the news comes that he is on his way to Damascus to wreak havoc among you and your fellow believers. And now here he stands before you in the flesh, preaching the way of salvation through Christ in the very synagogues that the high priest had told him to search for Christians.

His preaching is powerful. He's an Old Testament scholar. He knows the Old Testament like the back of his hand. And he proves time and again, using the Old Testament, that Jesus is the Christ. Saul is doing just what Stephen did on the day Stephen was stoned. (Remember who held the coats of those who killed Stephen that day!)

At first the Jews are as surprised as everyone else at what they're hearing. But then their amazement quickly turns to anger, and they plot to kill him.

News of the plot reaches the disciples, and they help Saul escape, lowering him in a basket from a house overhanging the city wall. Leaving Damascus, Saul sets out for Jerusalem.

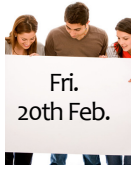
questions

1. What were the Christians in Damascus expecting from Saul?
2. What did they get?
3. What did the Jews think about Saul's preaching?
4. How did Saul escape?

praise pray

Ps. 106:7-12

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
20th Feb.

Let's Worship God

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Acts 9:15b

reading notes Acts 9:10-19 - Doing What Jesus Wants Done

Having saved Saul, Jesus now moves to make sure that everyone knows that Saul, the man who has come to persecute them, is now a disciple of His.

Jesus does this through two visions:

- The first is for Saul. In it Saul sees a man called Ananias laying his hands on him and restoring his sight. Jesus is assuring Saul that help is on the way, and that he will be received as a Christian.

- The second vision is for Ananias. Jesus calls Ananias, and Ananias answers immediately. But then Jesus tells Ananias to do something which appears to be utterly stupid. He is to go to a certain house and ask for Saul of Tarsus. Ananias doesn't have to ask, Saul who? Every Christian in Damascus knows who Saul of Tarsus is. Wanting to make sure he's got it right, Ananias reminds Jesus of what Saul has done to the church in Jerusalem and of the reason why he's come to Damascus. But Jesus tells Ananias to *Go!* because He is going to use Saul to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. Ananias has a choice to make - either play it safe in human terms, or take Jesus at His Word. He chooses to take Jesus at His Word and goes to Saul. Believing what Jesus has told him, Ananias calls Saul, brother Saul. He lays his hands on Saul and immediately Saul can see and is filled with the Holy Spirit. He gets up, is baptised, and eats.

- questions**
1. Why did Saul go to Damascus?
 2. What did Saul see in His vision?
 3. Why was Ananias afraid to go to Saul?
 4. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do? What did Ananias do?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 106:1-6
1. Pray that we will do what Jesus tells us to do.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
17th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
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Acts 9:15b

reading Acts 8:26-35 - A Divine Appointment

notes An angel of the Lord comes to Philip and tells him to take the desert road out of Jerusalem. People normally don't use this road. So it might seem to Philip that God is leading him into the middle of nowhere. Nonetheless, he obeys the angel's command.

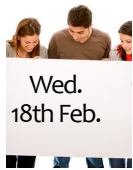
As he's travelling along Philip sees an Ethiopian man in a carriage. This is no ordinary traveller though. This man is a very high ranking official in the Ethiopian royal court. He's just been to Jerusalem to worship God, and now on his way home, he's reading the Old Testament book of Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit tells Philip to get up close to the chariot, and when he does, he hears the Ethiopian reading Isaiah chapter 53. Philip asks the man if he understands what he's reading. The man is honest and says that he doesn't and invites Philip to explain it to him.

The man's main question is this - who is Isaiah talking about when he refers to a man being led to his death as a sacrifice, just like a lamb to its slaughter? As a Jew, Philip knows the passage well; as a Christian, he understands who the passage is referring to - it's speaking about the Lord Jesus! Philip then, with the passage open in front of them, tells the Ethiopian official the good news of the gospel.

- questions**
1. Who told Philip to take the desert road, and who did Philip meet?
 2. What was the Ethiopian reading?
 3. Who was Isaiah talking about?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 105:13-18
1. Give thanks that we can learn about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
18th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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Acts 9:15b

reading Acts 8:36-40 - The Ethiopian Believes and is Baptised

notes In answering the Ethiopian's question about Isaiah chapter 53, Philip not only tells the official about who the Lord Jesus Christ is, he also speaks to him about his need of salvation. How do we know this? Because we read in verse 36 that as they travel along the road they come to some water, and the man asks Philip if there is any reason why he shouldn't be baptised. How would the man have known about baptism unless Philip had told him about it? And why would Philip have told him about baptism? Because the man must have repented of his sin and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful picture - Philip standing in the water baptising this Ethiopian official who has just repented of his sin and come to faith in the Lord Jesus.

However, as they come up out of the water, something quite extraordinary happens - Philip disappears, leaving the man to continue on his journey rejoicing in his new life. But what has happened to Philip? The Holy Spirit, needing him elsewhere, takes Philip from the roadside and brings him immediately to a town called Azotus. From there Philip sets out on a preaching trip, up the Mediterranean coast of Palestine to Caesarea where he eventually settles. (We will read later in Acts 21:8-9 that he provides hospitality for Paul and his companions in his home in Caesarea.)

- questions**
1. What had the Ethiopian done in response to hearing the gospel?
 2. How did the Ethiopian know that he should be baptised?
 3. What happened to Philip after the baptism?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 105:19-24
1. Give thanks for the work of God the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
19th Feb.

Let's Worship God

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Acts 9:15b

reading Acts 9:1-9 - The Conversion of Paul

notes In Jerusalem Saul continues to relentlessly persecute Christians. Not content with driving them out of Jerusalem, he now turns his attention to the Christians living in other cities in the region. Having received warrants which will allow him to arrest Christians in Damascus, he sets off on the 150 mile journey.

Just as Saul is approaching Damascus, a light from heaven flashes around him, and he falls to the ground blinded by the light. He hears a voice - Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? Saul responds, Who are you, Lord? The answer comes back, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

But how can Saul be persecuting Jesus if Jesus is seated on His throne of glory in Heaven? The point is simple - persecute Christians and you are persecuting Jesus Christ. Jesus and His followers are one. Saul has set out to destroy the Church, now he will experience the power of God, not in wrath but in salvation. Having convicted Saul of his sin, God saves him.

Though his companions have heard the voice, they haven't seen what Saul has seen. He gets to his feet, still blind. The man who has come to terrorise the Christians is led into Damascus by the hand, and for three days he doesn't eat or drink. Such is the impact on him of his encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- questions**
1. Why was Saul going to Damascus?
 2. Why did Jesus say Saul was persecuting Him?
 3. What happened when Saul got up?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 105:25-31
1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.