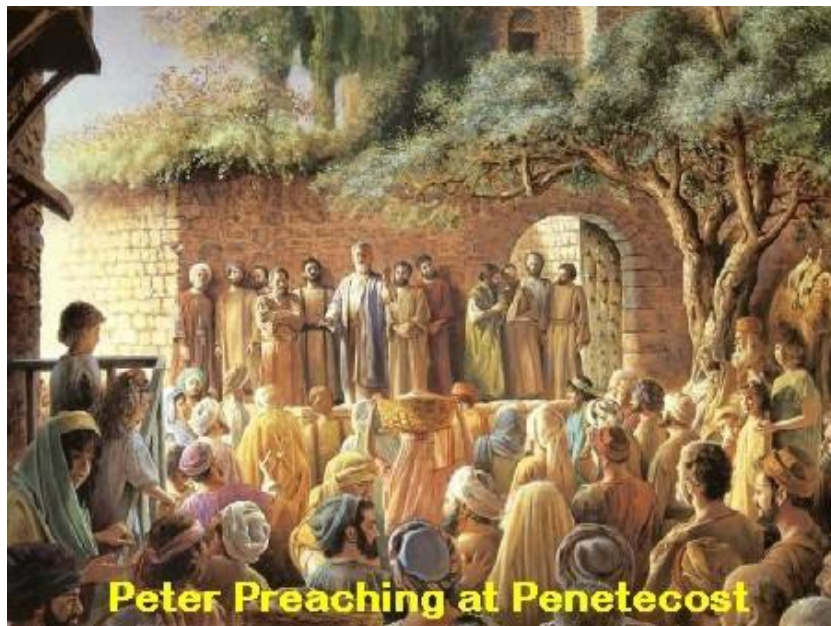


# The Apostles' Teaching, Preaching and Practice About God, his Son and Entrance into the Kingdom of God



By William Carey Clark

## Forward

We are told in Acts 17:11 that the Jews in Berea were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if the things Paul and Silas had shared with them were so. We are powerfully influenced by the things we are taught from childhood. Those who received little religious teaching as children usually accept the belief system of those who bring them to a salvation experience.

It is normal for those of us who call ourselves Christians to accept as biblical the Statement of Faith of the church to which we belong. This brief booklet is simply a compilation of the teaching and preaching of the apostles and others found mainly in the Book of Acts. Most of us agree that the Bible is the Word of God. Its teachings are inspired in a way that our creeds and statements of faith are not.

For that reason, my prayer is that each of us, as we read these Scriptures, have the courage to exam our basic beliefs and practices with a willingness to make sure they are really in line with the tenants of God's word. I have added a series of questions following the Scriptures that have been cited. Feel free to add questions and further Scripture to those found in this booklet. I would love to hear from you at [wmcareyclark@gmail.com](mailto:wmcareyclark@gmail.com)

May the Lord bless each of us as we continue learning from His word. The Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Wm Carey Clark

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# The Early Church's Teaching, Preaching and practice Concerning God, His Son and Entrance into the Kingdom of God

## Peter's Confession at Caesarea Philippi

Matthew 16: <sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**" <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock<sup>[b]</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of hell<sup>[c]</sup> shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed<sup>[d]</sup> in heaven."

## Peter's Sermon on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: <sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>16</sup>But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup>even on my male servants<sup>[c]</sup> and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

<sup>20</sup>the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup>And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

<sup>22</sup>"Men of Israel, hear these words: **Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God** with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup>this Jesus,<sup>[d]</sup> delivered up according to the definite plan

and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> **God raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.  
<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.  
<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup> he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup> **This Jesus God raised up**, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> **Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God**, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord, (‘Yahweh said to my *adoni*’ in Hebrew – Psalm 110:1)  
“Sit at my right hand,  
<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.”

<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made him both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

## The Response to Peter’s Sermon

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**” <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

## Peter's Sermon in Solomon's Portico

Acts 3: <sup>11</sup>And *while*<sup>[t]</sup> he (the healed lame beggar) was holding fast to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, utterly astonished. <sup>12</sup>And *when he*<sup>[m]</sup> *saw it*,<sup>[n]</sup> Peter replied to the people, "Men *and* Israelites, why are you astonished at this? Or why are you staring at us, as *if* by our own power or godliness we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>**The God of Abraham and of Isaac<sup>[o]</sup> and of Jacob,<sup>[p]</sup> the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus**, whom you handed over and denied in the presence of Pilate, *after*<sup>[q]</sup> he had decided to release *him*.<sup>[r]</sup> <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and demanded *that* a man—a murderer—be granted to you. <sup>15</sup>**And you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses! <sup>16</sup>And on the basis of faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith *that is* through him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. <sup>17</sup>And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. <sup>18</sup>**But the things which God foretold through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ<sup>[s]</sup> would suffer**, he has fulfilled in this way. <sup>19</sup>Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and he may send the Christ<sup>[t]</sup> appointed for you—Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the times of the restoration of all *things*, about which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from earliest times. <sup>22</sup>Moses said, 'The Lord God<sup>[u]</sup> will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You will listen to him in everything that he says to you.'<sup>[v]</sup> <sup>23</sup>And it will be *that* every soul who does not listen to that prophet will be destroyed utterly from the people.'<sup>[w]</sup> <sup>24</sup>And indeed, all the prophets from Samuel and all those who followed *him*<sup>[x]</sup> have spoken *about* and proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup>You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God ordained with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed.'<sup>[y]</sup> <sup>26</sup>**God, after he<sup>[z]</sup> had raised up his servant**, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning each *of you* back from your wickedness!"

## Peter and John before the Council

Acts 4: <sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead**—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> is the stone that

was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men<sup>[c]</sup> by which we must be saved.”

## The Believers Pray for Boldness

<sup>23</sup>When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant,<sup>[d]</sup> said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord (Yahweh) and against his Anointed’<sup>[e]</sup>—

<sup>27</sup>for truly in this city there were gathered together against **your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed**, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants<sup>[f]</sup> to continue to speak your word with all boldness,<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are **performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.**” <sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

## The Apostles before the Council Again

Acts 5: <sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>**The God of our fathers raised Jesus**, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>**God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” ...

<sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ (anointed one) is Jesus.

## The Stoning of Stephen

Acts 7:<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing at the right hand of God.** <sup>56</sup>And he said, "**Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**" <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together<sup>(b)</sup> at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

## Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria

Acts 8:<sup>4</sup>Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to the city<sup>(a)</sup> of Samaria and **proclaimed to them the Christ.** <sup>6</sup>And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. <sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was much joy in that city.

## Simon the Magician Believes

Acts 8:<sup>9</sup>But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. <sup>10</sup>They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." <sup>11</sup>And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. <sup>12</sup>**But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.** <sup>13</sup>Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles<sup>(b)</sup> performed, he was amazed.

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, **they sent to them Peter and John,** <sup>15</sup>**who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,** <sup>16</sup>for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** <sup>17</sup>Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy



Spirit.”<sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are in the gall<sup>[c]</sup> of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” <sup>24</sup>And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

<sup>25</sup>Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

## Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south<sup>[d]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.**<sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “**See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?**”<sup>[e]</sup><sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



## The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.<sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**" <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and **was baptized**; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

## Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues

Acts 9: <sup>19b</sup>For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "**He is the Son of God.**" <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by **proving that Jesus was the Christ** (messiah or anointed one).

## Gentiles Hear the Good News

Acts 10: <sup>34</sup>So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, **preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)**, <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.** <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but **God raised him on the third day** and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that **he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.** <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

Acts 10: <sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.** <sup>46</sup>**For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.** Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.** Then they asked him to remain for some days.

## Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia

Acts 13: <sup>13</sup>Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup>After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." <sup>16</sup>So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup>**The God of this people Israel** chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. <sup>18</sup>And for about forty year she put up with them in

the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. <sup>20</sup>All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.<sup>21</sup>Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. <sup>22</sup>And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'<sup>23</sup>Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.<sup>24</sup>Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup>And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

<sup>26</sup>"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. <sup>27</sup>For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. <sup>28</sup>And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup>And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But **God raised him from the dead**, <sup>31</sup>and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. <sup>32</sup>And we bring you the good news that **what God promised to the fathers**, <sup>33</sup>**this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus**, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you.'

<sup>34</sup>And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

"I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

<sup>35</sup>Therefore he says also in another psalm,

"You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

<sup>36</sup>For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, <sup>37</sup>but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. <sup>38</sup>Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup>Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

41“Look, you scoffers,  
be astounded and perish;  
for I am doing a work in your days,  
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

## THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER CONVERTED

Acts 16: <sup>29</sup>And the jailer<sup>[a]</sup> called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup>And they said, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.**” <sup>32</sup>And **they spoke the word of the Lord** to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and **he was baptized at once, he and all his family.**

## PAUL AND SILAS IN BEREIA – BEREANS AN EXAMPLE FOR US

Acts 17: <sup>10</sup>The brothers<sup>[b]</sup> immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup>Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

## PAUL IN ATHENS

Acts 17: <sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>**The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,**<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;<sup>[d]</sup>

as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.’<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.<sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance **God** overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness **by a man whom he has appointed**; and of this he has given assurance to all **by raising him from the dead.**"

<sup>32</sup>Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." <sup>33</sup>So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup>But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## PAUL IN CORINTH

Acts 18:<sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews **that the Christ was Jesus.**

## APOLLOS SPEAKS BOLDLY IN EPHESUS

Acts 18: <sup>24</sup>Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit,<sup>[a]</sup> he spoke and **taught accurately the things concerning Jesus**, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately.**<sup>27</sup>And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, <sup>28</sup>for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, **showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.**

## PAUL IN EPHESUS

Acts 19: <sup>1</sup>And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland<sup>[a]</sup> country and came<sup>[a]</sup> to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, "**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>And he said, "**Into what then were you baptized?**" They said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, **they were baptized in<sup>[b]</sup> the name of the Lord Jesus.** <sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**, and **they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.** <sup>7</sup>There were about twelve men in all.

## PAUL SPEAKS TO A CROWD IN JERUSALEM

Acts 22: <sup>3</sup>“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel<sup>[b]</sup> according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup>And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>8</sup>And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘**I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.**’ <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand<sup>[c]</sup> the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ <sup>11</sup>And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, ‘**The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;** <sup>15</sup>for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.**’

## PAUL IN ROME

Acts 28: <sup>30</sup>He lived there two whole years at his own expense,<sup>[d]</sup> and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>**proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ** with all boldness and without hindrance.

1 John 1: <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our **fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

1 John 2:<sup>22</sup>Who is the liar but he who denies that **Jesus is the Christ?**

1 John 4: <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesses that Jesus Christ** has come in the flesh is from God, ... <sup>12</sup>**No one** has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4: <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 5: <sup>1</sup>**Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God**, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him... <sup>5</sup>**Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

John 17: <sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "**Father**, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since **you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life** to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And **this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent**.

A few questions:

1. What was the confession on which Jesus said he would build his church (assembly)?
2. Can you find verses proclaiming Jesus to be the son of God?
3. Can you find verses proclaiming Jesus to be the Christ (Messiah, Anointed)?
4. Can you find verses that clearly proclaim Jesus to be the God/man, God in the flesh?
5. Did Peter ever refer to God as the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers?
6. Did the disciples ever refer to God as the triune God?
7. What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven that Jesus gave to Peter?
8. What did Peter tell the crowd to do to be saved on the day of Pentecost?
9. In what name were people baptized throughout the Book of Acts?
10. What are signs of receiving the spirit recorded in the Book of Acts?
11. Why did Peter and John go to Samaria in Acts 8 and how had the believers been baptized?
12. Did you know there is a Hebrew Gospel of Matthew that gives chapter 28:18-20 as follows: "Jesus drew near to them and said: Go and teach them to carry out all the things which I have commanded you forever?"
13. Are there any major doctrines of your church not clearly taught by the apostles in the Book of Acts? If that is so, which doctrines are they and what should be done?