

Basic Bible Course

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Second Case of Conversion — at SOLOMON'S PORCH

Lesson Fifteen

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson we introduced a study of “THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES” (short form: “ACTS”) as the BOOK OF CONVERSIONS. WE proposed to study all the FACTS, PROMISES, WARNINGS and COMMANDS connected with each of the 11 cases of conversion, clearly described in this book. Since ACTS contains ALL THE CONVERSIONS recorded in the Word of God, we reasoned that if we BELIEVE the SAME FACTS, HEED the SAME WARNINGS, and OBEY the SAME COMMANDS for the SAME PURPOSES as those converted in Acts, we should thus be CONVERTED TO CHRIST in the SAME WAY and enjoy the SAME PROMISES as they.

In our INITIAL STUDY of the Book of Acts, we considered the FIRST CASE OF CONVERSION—on PENTECOST—in Acts 2. When the multitude BELIEVED Peter's preaching (i.e., were “pricked in their heart”) they asked him and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we DO?” Then Peter said unto them, “REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (verses 37-38). “They that GLADLY received his word WERE BAPTIZED” (verse 41). The same day there were “ADDED” unto them “about three thousand souls” (verse 41). “And the Lord ADDED to the CHURCH daily such as should be SAVED” (verse 47).

With these details from the FIRST case of conversion refreshed in our minds, let us now direct our attention to the SECOND case of conversion—at SOLOMON'S PORCH...Please read the entire account, Acts 3:1 to 4:4...

- I. PETER AND JOHN WENT TO THE TEMPLE AT THE HOUR OF PRAYER (verse 1).
 - A. It was the “ninth hour.”

NOTE: Please remember that the Jewish day began at 6 a.m., the way WE count time. Thus the “ninth hour” would be at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.
- II. A LAME BEGGAR ASKED AN ALMS (verses 2-3).
 - A. Peter denied he had either silver or gold (verses 4-6).
 - B. However, he offered to give the beggar what he had (verse 6).
 - C. Then he commanded the beggar, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” (verse 6).
 1. Remember that this man had been “lame from his mother's womb” (verse 2).
 2. Evidently, he had been unable to walk, for they “CARRIED...and LAID” him daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful (verse 2).
 3. Yet, when Peter took him by the right hand, and lifted him up, “immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength” (verse 7).
 4. The beggar—no longer lame—
 - a. leaped up
 - b. stood

- c. walked
- d. entered the temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping and praising God (verse 8).

III. ALL THE PEOPLE SAW THE MAN WALKING AND PRAISING GOD (verse 9).

- A. They knew it was the same man they had seen asking alms all these years at the Beautiful gate of the temple (verse 10).
- B. They were filled with wonder and amazement that he could now walk (verse 10).
- C. All the people ran together unto Peter, John and the healed man in Solomon's Porch (verse 11).

IV. PETER ANSWERED UNTO THE PEOPLE (verse 12).

- A. He asked why they marveled at the healed man's walking? (verse 12).
- B. He asked why they accredited himself and John for this miracle (verse 12).
 - 1. He denied it was by their own power or holiness that this healing had been performed.
- C. He said the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had healed the man to glorify His Son, Jesus (verse 13).
- D. He identified Jesus as the one they had delivered up, denied before Pilate, and killed (verses 13-15).
- E. He declared that God had raised up Jesus (verse 15).
 - 1. He said he and John were witnesses to this fact (verse 15).
- F. He said that CHRIST'S NAME—through FAITH in His name—had made this man strong (verse 16).
- G. He recognized that both the people and their rulers crucified Christ through ignorance (verse 17).
- H. However, he showed that by their ignorance Jesus had been made to suffer, thus fulfilling prophecy (verse 18).
- I. To BLOT OUT their SINS, Peter commanded them to—
 - 1. REPENT
 - 2. BE CONVERTED (verse 19).
- J. If they did this, not only would their SINS BE BLOTTED OUT, but "TIMES OF REFRESHING" should come from the presence of the Lord (verse 19).
- K. Christ's return was promised (verse 20).
 - 1. Prophecies cited as proof (verses 21-24).
- L. Speaking of Christ, Moses had taught, "A prophet [Christ] shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; HIM shall ye HEAR in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will NOT HEAR that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people" (verses 22-23).
- M. Peter emphasized that his listeners at Solomon's Porch were "the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with [their] fathers" (verse 25).
 - 1. God had said unto Abraham, "And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed" (verse 25).
 - 2. Thus, unto these "children" of the prophets and of the covenant, God, having raised up his Son Jesus, had sent him to them first (verse 26).
 - a. Jesus was sent to "bless" them, in 'TURNING AWAY every one of (them) from his iniquities.'

V. THE PRIESTS, CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE AND SADDUCEES WERE GRIEVED BY PETER'S AND JOHN'S PREACHING AND TEACHING THROUGH JESUS THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD (verses 1-2).

- A. They laid hands on them (verse 3).
- B. They put them in jail overnight (verse 3).

- VI. HOWEVER, MANY WHO HAD WITNESSED PETER'S SPEECH, BELIEVED (verse 4).
- A. They "HEARD the word."
 - B. They "BELIEVED."
 - C. The number of the men who believed was about five thousand.
- VII. LATER ON—ALSO ON SOLOMON' PORCH—"BELIEVERS" WERE THE MORE "ADDED" TO THE LORD (5:12-14).
- A. Those "added" were "multitudes both of men and women" (verse 14).

NOTE: Compare what Peter told those on PENTECOST (Acts 2:38) with what he told those at SOLOMON'S PORCH (Acts 3:19) as follows:

"REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST."—Acts 2:38, Peter on Pentecost.

"REPENT ye therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your SINS may be BLOTTED OUT, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord."—Acts 3:19, Peter at Solomon's Porch.

Do you perceive that Peter was merely using **TWO DIFFERENT CHOICES OF WORDS** for saying the **SAME THING** in **BOTH** these passages? To both groups Peter commanded, **"REPENT."** On Pentecost he next commanded, **"BE BAPTIZED;"** whereas, at Solomon's Porch, he said, **"BE CONVERTED"**—evidently having the same thought in mind. Repentance and baptism were **"FOR REMISSION OF SINS"** on Pentecost; repentance and conversion were **"THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT"** at Solomon's Porch...