

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 15:1-18

Media Reference Number SM-196

TITLE:

“DON'T CLOSE THE DOOR”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**”*

Close the Door !!!

We've all heard those familiar words...
Close the door, were you born in a barn?

ACTS CHAPTERS 13-14

God Opened the Door

ACTS CHAPTER 16-17

God Opened more Doors

BUT HERE IN ACTS 15

Some Tried to Close the Door

Jesus says He Opens & Closes the Doors"

Revelation 3:7a-8

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, `These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David.... :8 "I know your works. Behold, **I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it**; for (because) #1, you have a little strength, #2, you have kept My word, and #3, You have not denied My name.

The Door No Man Can Shut

Jesus Asked,

Who do men say that I am ?

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." :17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. :18 "And I also say to you that you are **Petros (pet'-ros, a pebble)** Peter, and on this **petra (pet'-ra a massive rock)** I (Jesus) will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Peter, you're a pebble, but upon that declaration of My deity - This Rock, I will build my church... The church is built upon the fact that He is God!

Then He Says;

:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"The progress of the gospel has often been hindered by people with closed minds.... who stand in front of an Open Door"

1.) Religion vs. Relationship

vv. 1-5

Certain Men (v.24)

"I think I Met These Guys at my Door the Other Day'

Trying to make Christianity a sect of Judaism. Christianity is the fulfillment of Judaism.

* *dissension (uproar)*

* *dispute GRK 4803 suzetesis (sood-zay'-tay-sis)*

a mutual questioning, a discussion, **an argument** (in the right sense) **not against the person, but the reason**

They believed in being saved by grace... but then kept by works

I asked a guy... 'have you ever been born again?' Yeah, 5 times this year.

That's the thinking of being saved by grace, but now I have to do all the work to keep me there - Not So !!!

Legalism is responsible for this burden

#1 I promise not to drink

#2 I promise not to smoke

#3 I promise not to chew

#4 I promise not to go with girls who do

Christianity

is growth process that takes a lifetime

There will be things of the past hanging around for a while
In Our Front Yard
at home there is one of those Liquid Amber Trees and the leftover leaves

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, :10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. :11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

You may struggle with The Old Leaves

BUT THANK GOD THERE IS A STRUGGLE

Application 1A

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.

- **FAITH** *is what frees me from my past, seeing me in Christ*
- **HOPE** *is what prepares me for the future, it keeps me going*
- **LOVE** *is what I'm to be about now, this moment, today*

1 Thessalonians 1:3

remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

Grace produces "Joy"

"legalism" produces the opposite of "Joy" - "Bitterness"

Luke 15:7

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.... :10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who (decides to change the course he's heading) repents."

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

In the Year 1900

A Steam Locomotive *train was making it's routine run from Dallas Texas to St.. Louis Mo. in the dead of winter, in the midst of a blizzard. Just then a mother with her two children was concerned about making her stop at the little town of boumount, just outside St.. Louis - just then a sincere man said to her, miss don't worry, I've ridden this train for years, I'll tell you when we reach your stop...*

You need to become a Jew...before you can go to heaven

Take Note;

- At the same time God called Moses the law giver,
He gave Aaron the Priest to atone for the broken law.
- At the same time God gave the demanding Law,
He gave the sacrificial Lamb to be offered for forgiveness.
- At the same time God said "You shall not"
He said "I will do"
The Law was to show us our bankruptcy

There are People who think they need a constant diet of discipline... they feel better if they get a spanking - Religion has that effect on some people

Faith plus nothing in Jesus Christ

2.) Peter Reminds Them of the Past *vv. 6-11*

- **FAITH** *is what frees me from my past, seeing me in Christ*

Peter Reminds them of 4 important "God Ordained" ministries

I.) The Ministry of Peter's *was of preaching to all People*

Acts 10

The House of Cornelius,

Peters message to the gentiles was to preach Christ,

not baptism, not membership, not circumcision, not tithing, not communion, **but Jesus Christ and Him crucified and resurrected from the dead!**

II.) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit *being poured out*

acknowledged them

* **acknowledged** GRK 3140 martureo (mar-too-reh'-o)
testify, to give [evidence], bear record.

The proof was the 'Pentecost'
Experience Among the Gentiles

III.) The Ministry of Unity *between Jew and Gentile*

Peter was Hungry !!!

He dreamt of Lamb chops, & falafels,
this becomes a nightmare for Peter. In the sheet was "all kinds" meaning clean and
unclean, making even the clean now **unclean!!!**.

Peter even saw "pigs in the blanket"

Cleansed GRK 2511 katharizo (kath-ar-id'-zo) purge, purify made clean.

IV.) The Ministry of Removing *the yoke of the Law*

Yoke GRK 2218 zugos (dzoo-gos'); to be joined at the neck, to be coupled by obligation. the
beam of the balance connecting the scales

The Yoke will tilt
in the direction of what weighs the most
Law.....Grace
Around, on or Upon the Neck

IT WAS A SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT BALBOA PIER

*I was flying high. The Lord had blessed the Morning services and we had gone down to the beach to eat at
Ruby's. Enjoyed the burger. Enjoying the walk, Enjoying the Fellowship, fisherman fishing from the pier, just
Enjoying the Lord,- when all of a sudden a 14-16 inch mackerel hit me in the back of the neck
What a stinky yoke it was*

Be Not Unequally Yoked (*Tilted*)

Christians engaged in Fellowship Situations (courting or marrying)

* **Test** God had opened the Door, why do you seek to close the door

A Dangerous Move

Galatians 2:21

do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Peter Drives it Home

"We (Jews) shall be saved just as they (The Gentiles are already)

Jesus Said

Luke 8:12

"...then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, **lest they should believe and be saved.** (it's that simple)

God delivers the Gentiles from Idolatry and He delivers the Jew from Legalism

Galatians 5:1 (amplified)

It is for freedom that Christ has gone to the cross for us, to set us free once and for all. Now that being true, Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened, bound and pulled under again by any yoke of slavery that the law or legalism tries to put around your neck.

Freedom from a "Do Good" Centered Salvation

Colossians 2:13-14(16)

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your heart, Jesus has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you **all** trespasses, (how) :14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And Jesus has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **:16 So let no one judge you in food** (vegs or pork roast) **or in drink** (water to Pepsi), **or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths** (the set aside for worship),

The Law

will always lead a person to rebellion (it's in us)

But Grace

will always lead a man to love

Romans 8:3-4

:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, :4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

If You Want to Fulfill the Law,

Romans 13:9-10

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet,".... are all summed up in this saying, namely, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" :10 **Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

3.) Paul Reports on the Present

vv. 12

Reports about...

What God is Doing Now

- **LOVE** is what I'm to be about now, this moment, today

Confidential

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, :5 even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved

Understand this;

*Jesus didn't die to make bad men good,
He died to make dead men live*

Romans 7:9

I was alive once without the knowledge of the law, but when the commandment came (the "thou shalt not's") sin revived in me and I died.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

How is Someone saved from their sins

Ephesians 2:8-9

by grace you have been saved **through faith**, and that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God (faith is), :9 not of works (doing good), lest anyone should boast.

4.) James Relates it all to the Future

vv. 13-18

- **HOPE** is what prepares me for the future, it keeps me going

This James is the half-brother of Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, Known as James the Just, (*Matthew 13:55*)

His nick name was 'camel knees'

James, A Jewish Heavy, shows support for Peter, Paul and Barnabas' reports

The Seeking Sinner will always meet The Seeking Savior

Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a **good work** in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, :9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. :10 For we are His **workmanship**... Project, goal, operation, mission

workmanship **GRK 4161** poiema (poy'-ay-mah); to take from a concept to a product, to assemble and weave a fabric to bring forth what was desired

God never looks at you and says
~~That's Not What I Ordered~~

poiema in ENG. is the word poem, something beautifully created by the creator, for the creator

poems never create themselves because they have no capacity to create at all - they are a gift!!!

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.