

## WALKING IN THE SHADOW OF PETER

### Acts 5.15

#### INTRODUCTION: [READ ACTS 5.12-16]

1. It was a time in which the church was in the early stages of development as the apostles had done many great miraculous works.
2. That even the objects which belongs to miracle workers were effective make it possible for these to be healed.
3. Christians today also walk in the shadow of Peter as we see his example and benefitted by his life.

#### I. PETER THE IMPETUOUS

- A. The Bible is not slanted to portray anyone better than is he is, but is forthright. (Gen. 9.21; 2 Sam. 12.9; 1 Kings 11.4; 19.14)
- B. Peter is known as a hero of faith as he accomplished some great things, but he is also known for his mistakes.
  1. Sometimes Peter's impetuous side got in the way of the will of God. (Matt. 16.21-23; John 18.7-11)
  2. Peter was often plagued with doubt. (Matt. 14.28-31; 26.33,34;

#### II. PETER THE PREACHER

- A. Peter did not start out as a preacher, but as a fisherman. But Christ called him to be a fisher of men. (Matt. 4.18-20)
  1. Peter did not have a formal education. (Acts 4.13)
  2. Peter's sermons were organized and orderly. (Acts 11.1-4)
- B. To preachers and those aspiring to be so, sermons are not going to have the impact they need, if the members are left to sort it out.

#### III. PETER THE PASTOR

- A. As an pastor, Peter fulfilled the responsibility given to him by Christ to feed His sheep. (John 21.15-17; Acts 20.28; 1 Pet. 5.1-3)
- B. Peter was qualified, yet not without faults. (1 Tim. 3.1,2,3,7)
  1. Peter was one who did not allow past failures to hinder him from becoming a mature and faithful Christian. (2 Pet. 3.18)
  2. Men need to grow and mature as they prepare themselves for the eventual office of an elder.

#### IV. PETER THE PUPIL

- A. Peter was a student who had the tremendous opportunity to study under the greatest teachers who ever lived. (Matt. 16.13-16)
  1. Peter learned about forgiveness from Christ. (Matt. 18.21,22)
  2. Peter learned about humility from Christ. (John 13.3-9)
- B. Christian education is a lifetime endeavor. (Eph. 4.20,21)

**CONCLUSION:** Christians imitate Peter as he also imitated Christ.

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#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping  
God "in Spirit  
and truth"  
(John 4.23)*

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## LOVE DOES NO HARM

To the Romans, Paul taught that the entirety of the law of God can be fulfilled by only making one attribute a part of our lives. **ROMANS 13.8,9:** "...for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments...are all summed up in this one saying, namely, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself'"

Could it really be that easy? All we have to do is love everyone and we are pleasing to God? The reason given is this: "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law" (Rom. 13.10). But loving our neighbor, our spouse, our children, our brethren, our enemy, is not as easy as it sounds.

To love one another is not defined as most think of it. For love does not mean that we are affectionate but that we desire what is best for them. Love does not mean that we withhold that which may cause another pain, for not all pain is harmful. Would a parent refrain from spanking a child because she loves him too much to hurt him? Instead, the punishment is performed to benefit the child (Prov. 23.14). Would a brother in Christ refuse to correct another who is in sin because he does not want to hurt his feelings (James 5.19,20)? Loving one another is not always easy. In many cases it can be the most difficult thing to do.

Indeed, love does no harm. And when love is a choice and a call to action, we will do what we can, however unpleasant, to show love to those who need it.

CLP

## USING MY RELIGION

### Acts 25:18,19

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Religion: According to Vine, religion “primarily denotes ‘fear of the gods’” It is a system of worship and service to any deity.
2. Many may claim to be religious, yet only use their religion when it suits them and ignores it when it becomes inconvenient.
3. Many wonder about religion and how it is used. Consider:

#### I. THE ONLY RELIGION IS GOD’S RELIGION

- A. Since the theory of evolution was first expressed, atheists have attempted to trace the origin of religion. (Acts 7.38-43)
  1. Some anthropologists have concluded that religion is merely an invention of man to provide for his needs.
  2. Indeed, religion provides the peace, comfort, and hope that man needs, but most is false hope. (Rom. 10.1-3)
  3. Beware of self-imposed religion which appears pious but offers no benefit to the soul. (Col. 2.20-23)
- B. Throughout the history of mankind, the true God has been put in competition against the gods of man’s imagination.
  1. God verses Baal. (1 Kings 18.20-24; 37-39)
  2. The true religion of God is proven as He often judged the false gods of man. (1 Sam. 4.7,8; 5.3-7; 1 Chr. 16.25,26)

#### II. IS YOUR RELIGION USED OR USELESS?

- A. One can have useless religion. [Useless – “vain”]
  1. Religion is useless if one does bring himself under the authority of the laws of God. (James 1.26; 1 Cor. 9.27)
  2. Religion is useless when it is based on the doctrines and commandments of men. (Matt. 15.7-9; Heb. 13.9)
- B. Pure and undefiled religion is comprised of four attributes.
  1. PRACTICED RELIGION. Are we practicing what we preach or just talking the talk? (Heb. 5.12-14; James 1.22-27)
  2. PRACTICAL RELIGION. Not just theology and philosophy, but a daily application of biblical principles. (Gal. 6.10)
  3. PERSONAL RELIGION. While there is value in “corporate” worship, religion is first individual. (Phil. 2.12)
  4. PURE RELIGION. A religious sinner? (Rom. 2.17-24)

**CONCLUSION:** True religion only works when you do.

## THE PROPHETIC WORD CONFIRMED

If you have ever had a conversation with someone claiming to have knowledge of the will of God, or who claims to be a prophet, one who speaks in tongues, or one who simply holds to doctrines not taught in the Bible, you know how frustrating it can be. Not frustrating to us, but to them.

In a recent conversation with a Baptist preacher, he tried in vain to convince me that baptism was not necessary for salvation. There was no need to resort to complicated strategies of rhetoric. Simply using the word of God as a weapon for “pulling down strongholds” and “casting down arguments” (2 Cor. 10.4,5), I pointed out that when Paul was baptized it was for the purpose of washing away your sins (Acts 22.16). And when Peter wrote of baptism he stated that it “saves us” (1 Pet. 3.21).

It brought to mind a passage found in **ISAIAH 44.25**. It is here that Isaiah describes God as He “*who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and drives diviners mad; who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolish.*” It ought never to be our intentions to make fools of people. We always ought to lovingly and humbly do our best to bring others to the knowledge of the truth. However, when there are those who stubbornly persist in their own falsehoods, they become frustrated, driven mad, and made foolish when their ideas are brought up against the word of God.

Isaiah then goes on to say in the next verse: “*He confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' To the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' And I will raise up her waste places;*” (Isa. 44.26). Truth has nothing to fear. When the truth is held up against the many false ideas proclaimed by the world, Christians can have confidence that they will not be ashamed (2 Tim. 2.15).

The word of God stands the test of time, and holds up against those who would promote the wisdom of men. When wise men, scholars, and religious experts teach that which is contrary to the word of God, “*let God be true and every man a liar. As it is written, 'that You may be justified in Your works, and may overcome when You are judged'*” (Rom. 3.4). CLP