



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Acts 1:1** In my first book, Theophilus, I wrote about what **Jesus began to do and teach.** This included everything from the beginning of his life
- **1:2** until the day he was taken to heaven. **Before** he was taken to heaven, **he gave instructions** through the Holy Spirit to the apostles, whom he had chosen.

- The book of Acts gives a unique glimpse into the life and practice of the early church.
 - It describes:
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Acts 2,
 - The spread of the Gospel outside of Jerusalem in Acts 8
 - And to the Gentiles in Acts 10

- The sermons recorded in Acts give us a window into the preaching ministries of Peter, Stephen, Philip, James, and Paul, along with the immediate impact those sermons had.
- It is the purpose of the church today to follow these examples.
- I read of some preachers calling this a “Candy Coated Idea”.

- Tell me if I missed something in the following verse!

- Luke 6:46

**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,
and do not the things
which I say?**

- Can you folks help me understand this verse?

- The book of Acts is provides the historical framework for the epistles found in the New Testament.

- From Romans to Revelation, names, places, and events are mentioned upon which light is shown by the historical account of Acts.

- Without Acts, the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John would be left without a satisfying answer to the question, "What happened next?"

- In two senses Acts is the second chapter of a continued story.
 - First, it is the second letter which Luke had sent to Theophilus.

- In the **Gospel of Luke** **he had told the story of the life of Jesus** upon earth.
(**Luke 1:3**)

- Now he goes on to tell the story of the **Lord's Church.**

- Second, Acts is the continuing story which has no end.
- The Gospel was only the story of what Jesus began to do and to teach.

- There are different kinds of immortality.
- There is an immortality of fame.
- Beyond a doubt Jesus did win such an immortality, for his name will never be forgotten.

- There is an immortality of influence.
- Some men leave an effect in the world which cannot die.

- Jesus won an immortality of influence upon the lives of men and women which will not die.

- Above all, there is an immortality of presence and power.

- Jesus not only left an immortal name and influence;
- He is still alive and still active.

- He is not the one
who was;
he is the one
who is.

- Revelation 1:18

I am he that lives,
and was dead; and, behold,
I am alive for evermore,

- The book of Acts tells of the Church that carries on the life of Christ.
- Acts 1 tells us how the Church was empowered to do that by the work of the Holy Spirit.

- The apostles were ordered to wait on the coming of the Spirit.
 - Acts 1:4
 - In the business of life we need to learn to be still.
- "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength."
(Isaiah 40:31).

- Acts 1:6-8

So when they had met together they asked him, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel at this time?"

- Error and tradition always die hard,
- Especially that type of error which is deeply ingrained by generations of ignorance.
- An earthly kingdom was never in the purpose of God for Israel.

- Even the kingdom of Saul, David, and Solomon, were permitted but never approved.
- From its inception it was a rejection of God's government of the chosen people.

- **1 Samuel 8:7**

- **And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee:**
- **for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.**

- **Acts 1:6-8**

So when they had met together they asked him,
"Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel at this time?"

- Throughout his ministry
Jesus labored under
one great disadvantage.
- The **center** of his message was
the kingdom of God.
(**Mark 1:14**);
 - But he meant **one thing**
by the kingdom
- And those who listened to him
meant another.

- The Jews were always vividly conscious of being God's chosen people.
- They took that to mean that they were destined for special privilege and for world-wide dominion.
- The whole course of their history proved that would never be.

- Israel had its days of greatness.
- But it had been in subjection to the Babylonians,
the Persians,
the Greeks
the Romans.

- So somewhere along the line some scribe came up with the bright idea that one day God would break directly into human history and establish that world sovereignty of which they dreamed.
- They conceived of the kingdom in political terms.

- How did Jesus conceive of it?
- Let us look at the Lord's Prayer.
 - In it there are two petitions side by side.
 - "Thy kingdom come;
 - Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."
(**Matthew 6:10**)

- It is characteristic **of Hebrew style writing** that thoughts are presented in **two parallel forms,**
 - **The second repeats** and **amplifies** the first.
 - The second is **a definition of the first.**

- Therefore,
we see that
by the kingdom
Jesus meant a
society upon earth
where God's will would be
as perfectly done
as it is in heaven.

- Because of that it would be a kingdom founded on love and not on power.

- Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

- To attain to that men needed the Holy Spirit.
- Twice already Luke has talked about waiting for the coming of the Spirit.
- We are not to think that the Spirit came into existence now for the first time.

- It is quite possible for a power always to exist but for men to experience or take it at some given moment.
 - For instance, men did not invent atomic power.
 - It always existed;
 - But only in recent times have men tapped it.

- So God is eternally
- Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
- But there came to men a special time when they experienced to the full that power which had always been present.

- The power of the Spirit was going to make them Christ's witnesses.
- First in Jerusalem,
 - Then **Judaea**;
 - Then Samaria,
 - And finally to the ends of the earth.

- Let us note certain things about this Christian witness.
- First, a witness is a man who says *I know this is true.*

- Second,
the real witness
is not of words
- But of deeds.
- When Stanley had discovered Livingstone
in Central Africa and had spent some time
with him, he said,
- "If I had been with him any longer I would
have been compelled to be a Christian
and he never spoke to me about it at all."
- The witness of the man's life was irresistible.

- Third, in Greek the word for “witness” and the word for martyr is the same {**G3144**}.
- A witness had to be ready to become a martyr.
 - To be a witness means to be loyal no matter the cost.

- **Acts 1:9-11**

When he had said these things, while they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud received him and he passed from their sight.

- **While they were gazing into heaven,
as he went upon his way,**
- **behold, two men in white garments
stood beside them;**

- **Acts 1:9-11**
and they said to them,
 - "Men of Galilee,
 - **why** are you standing looking up into heaven?
 - This Jesus who has been taken up into heaven from you
 - **will come again in the same way**
 - as you have seen him go to heaven."

- When Luke tells of this he says,
"They returned to Jerusalem
with great joy."
(**Luke 24:52.**)
 - ♦ The ascension must
always remain a mystery,
for it attempts to
put into words...
 - ♦ What is
beyond words
 - ♦ And to describe
what is beyond description.

- There had to come a day when the Jesus of earth,
 - Became the Christ of heaven.
- So to the disciples the ascension was two things.

- **# 1 It was an ending.**
- The days when their faith was faith in **a flesh and blood person** were over.
- Now they were linked to someone who was forever independent of **flesh**, **space**, and **time**.

- **# 2** It was also a beginning.
- The disciples did not leave the scene heart-broken;
- They left it with great joy.
(**Luke 24:52**)

- The ascension gave the disciples the certainty that they had a friend,
- Not only on earth, but in heaven.
- Surely it is most precious to know that to die is not to go out into the dark but to enter the light.

- **The Second Coming**
is not a matter
for **speculation** and **idle curiosity**;
- It is a summons
to make ourselves ready
for that day when it comes.
- **(2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)**
- **When the Lord Jesus
shall be revealed from heaven
with his mighty angels....,**

- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
 - **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them**
 - **that know not God,**
- **and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**
 - **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**

- We are told that the number of the disciples was about 120.
- That is not to discourage
- But to uplift.

- Since there were about 4,000,000 Jews in Palestine, at the time, this means that fewer than 1 in 30,000 were Christians.

- **Zechariah 4:10**

**For who hath despised
the day of small things?**

- It is God's way,
whose "**strength**"
is made perfect in
weakness;

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

- Who raised Joseph from the prison,
 - David from the sheepfold,
 - Daniel from slavery,
- And converted the world by the fishermen and the tent maker,
 - Himself being a Carpenter.

- The mistake of many is to regard Jesus as someone who lived and died and whose life we study and whose story we tell at Easter & Christmas.
- And then get on with our lives.

- Jesus is not a figure in a book,
- He is a living presence.
 - And the Christian is a man/woman whose whole life is a witness to the fact that he knows and has met the Risen Lord.

- Jesus tells His disciples that they are to be witness **“unto Me”**.
(**Acts 1:8**)

- Jesus is to be the **sole focus of their message.**

- That has **not changed!**

- Our only mission is to point people to Jesus.

- He is the only hope the world has for salvation,

- Acts 4:12

For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- It is
“**one beggar telling
another beggar
where to find bread**”.

- Jesus is the
“**Bread of Life**”,
(**John 6:35**)

- **He is the solution**
to the spiritual hunger
of the world.

- Now:

“Go and tell”

(Mark 16:7)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

