

New Testament 2: Unit 3 – The Church and the Jewish Authorities (Acts 3:1-5:42)

The purpose of these notes are first to provide a summary of key points from the PTC Course Notes, and second to provide some extra information that may fill out your understanding of the subject in question.

Introduction

This unit we look at how the first church began to bear witness to Christ – and how they were received, particularly by the Jewish Authorities.

The Church in Action

In Chapters 3 to 5, we see two rounds, that roughly follow the same pattern.

Round 1 – Acts 3:1-5:11

Round 2 – Acts 5:12-6:7

3:1-10 – Healing one

5:12-13 – Healing many

Location Solomon's Colonnade (c.f. 3:2, 11 then 5:12)

3:11-26 – Many believed

5:14-16 – Many believed

4:1-4 – Arrest

5:17-20 – Arrest

4:5-22 – Trial and release

5:21-40 – Trial and release

Don't speak Jesus (4:17,18)

Don't speak Jesus (5:28, 40)

4:23-5:11 – Believers gather

5:41-6:7 – Believers gather

Testify and rejoice in Jesus (4:32-37)

Testify and rejoice in Jesus (5:41-42)

Believers Threat (5:1-11)

Believers Threat (6:1-7)

The Name of Jesus Christ

Acts 2:21 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' > 2:38, 3:6;

3:16, 8:12, 16, 9:14-15, 10:48, 15:26, 16:18.

Acts 4:7 'by what name?' > 4:10, 12, 30

Acts 4:17, 18 'don't speak in the name of Jesus'! > 4:20 'can't help speaking' (c.f. 5:28, 40-41)

Question of Authority in the temple – Jesus in Luke 20:2 c.f. Peter and John in Acts 4:7.

Peter's 2nd Sermon (3:12-26)

Gospel facts (3:13-15), Gospel Offer (13:16-19), Gospel Reason (3:20-23), Gospel Response (3:24-26)

Familiar Tract: You killed him, God raised him, we are witnesses > Repent!

Note the oversight of God (c.f. 3:13, 15, 18) yet the responsibility of the Jews (3:13, 14, 15, 17, 26)

Yet for the Jews (c.f. 3:19-20, 22, 25) and for all (3:25) - but if you don't (c.f. 3:23)

New Testament 2: Unit 3 – The Church and the Jewish Authorities (Acts 3:1-5:42)

Peter's 3rd Sermon (4:8-12)

Familiar Tract: You killed him, God raised him, we are being called to account > Look to Jesus for salvation!

Psalm 118:22 c.f. Matt 21:42-43 and 1 Peter 2:7

Exercise:

Read Acts 4:13-22.

Consider the response from those who heard Peter.

- a. What was their dilemma?
- b. What was their solution?
- c. What was the result?

Being the Church of Christ (Acts 4:23-5:42)**The Prayer of the Church (Acts 4:23-31)**

First response – 'raise their voices together in prayer to God' (4:24)

Different response to persecution than what they did when Jesus was with them (c.f. Luke 22:39-46, they fell asleep)

What do they pray?

God you are sovereign over all – you created all

God you know all – you spoke beforehand

Messianic anointing – Psalm 2:1-2

Herod, Pontius Pilate, Gentiles, people of Israel

God help us – to enable your servants

Speak your word with boldness

Heal and perform miracles signs and wonders

Through the name of Jesus.

The answer?

New Testament 2: Unit 3 – The Church and the Jewish Authorities (Acts 3:1-5:42)

Miraculous signs – place shaken

Filled with the Holy Spirit

They spoke the word of the Lord boldly

The Life of the Church (Acts 4:32-5:11)**Stewardship**

Shared possessions

Voluntary

Responsive

Generous

Continuing testimony – to the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Barnabas – Joseph (a Levite), Son of Encouragement > c.f. 11:19-26 (**23**), 13:2, 42-46, 14:23, 15:2-39.

Contrast – Ananias & Sapphira

What was their sin?

Not generosity towards the saints, but recognition for themselves

Threat of internal influence

Response – great fear (5:11)

Peter's 4th Sermon (5:29-32)

Familiar Tract: You killed him, God raised him, we are witnesses > Obey!

Mixed response**Opposition**

Opposition throughout

Don't speak about Jesus (4:17, 18, 5:28, 40)

Growth

Speak in Jesus name (3:6, 4:10, 12, 20, 31, 33, 5:42)

Result throughout – Growth (c.f. 4:4, 5:14, 6:7 – note the priests believed)

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For next Week:

- Read Unit 4
- Read the *New Bible Dictionary* article 'Miracles'.