

THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS 28

ACTS 26:13

13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

ACTS 26:14

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

ACTS 26:15

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

ACTS 26:16

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

[STOP]

ACTS 26:16

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

ACTS 26:17

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

ACTS 26:18

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may

receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

74-1 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
Paul founded the church at Ephesus about the middle of the first century. This enables us to set the date of the beginning of the Ephesian Church Age; about 53 A.D.

74-2 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
His manner of ministering set the pattern that all future messengers were to aspire to, and actually sets the pattern for every true minister of God, though he would not attain to such heights in the prophetic realm as did Paul. Paul's ministry had a threefold quality and was as follows:

74-3 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
First of all, Paul was absolutely true to the Word. He never deviated from it no matter what the cost.

Galatians 1:8-9,

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 2:11,14,

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."

"But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

74-4 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3

I Corinthians 14:36-37,

"What? came the Word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."

75-1 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
Notice that Paul was unorganized, but Spirit-led, as when God moved upon Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. Jerusalem's council never sent Paul out, nor did it have any power or jurisdiction over him. God, and God alone, did the sending and the leading. Paul was not of men, but of God.

Galatians 1:1,

"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead:)"

Galatians 2:3-5,

"But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you."

75-2 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
Secondly, his ministry was in the power of the Spirit, thereby demonstrating the spoken and written Word.

I Corinthians 2:1-5,

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Acts 14:8-10,

"And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked."

Acts 20:9-12,

"And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted."

Acts 28:7-9,

"In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed."

II Corinthians 12:12,

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."

76-1 EPHESIAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.3
Thirdly, he had the evident fruit of his God-given ministry.

II Corinthians 12:11,

"I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."

I Corinthians 9:2,

"If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostle-ship are ye in the Lord."

II Corinthians 11:2,

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

Paul had been the means of bringing in multitudes of the Gentile sheep; he fed them, and cared for them, until they brought forth righteous fruit and were prepared to meet the Lord as a part of the Gentile bride.

ACTS 26:18

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

ACTS 26:19

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

ACTS 26:20

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to

the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

ACTS 9:19

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

ACTS 9:20

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

ACTS 26:21

21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

ACTS 26:22

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

ACTS 26:23

23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

ACTS 26:24

24 ¶ And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

MARK 3:20

20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

MARK 3:21

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

ACTS 26:24

24 ¶ And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

ACTS 26:25

25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.