

"God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong..."

Romans 1:9-11

1. Paul preaches the gospel of Jesus
2. In travelling to preach to other Christians he is aiming to strengthen people
3. Do you see that there are 2 motives to sharing the gospel with other Christians. One is to lead them out of systems that do not lead them to worship in Spirit and in Truth. The other reason is to strengthen people in their faith
4. How would your faith be strengthened? What would you like to hear?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 46 SHARING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

"Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

John 4:21-25

1. Jerusalem is not the centre of worship. The focus is on worshipping the Father
2. The aim is that the worshipers will worship in spirit and in truth
3. Jesus is the one who will explain all things to us
4. How does this help you work out how to have a spirit-filled life?

" But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

1. Power as a Christian comes from the Holy Spirit
2. When this power comes Christians are to witness to the whole world.
3. The witnessing is to focus on witnessing for and about Jesus
4. The world includes, for the early disciples, the Jews in their home territory. As they did not all accept that salvation now came through Jesus they needed to hear the word of God

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus." When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them.."

Acts 19:1-6

1. Paul often used questions to find out what people thought

2. On hearing that some people had become believers he wanted to know if they had received the Holy Spirit
3. These people had been baptised
4. Paul now takes the believers on to a knowledge of Jesus and re-baptised them—and they then received the Spirit
5. Why do you think Paul wanted to offer them more? Could it be to help them worship in Spirit and truth?

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries." Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;"

Revelation 18:2-4

1. Babylon in prophecy is defined as all systems which draw people away from a relationship with God. This includes denominations which do not lead people into worshipping God in Spirit and in truth
2. Jesus, the main speaker in the book of Revelation wants to call people out of these false systems
3. If people stay within these false systems they will share in the sins of Babylon—and her destruction