

Feb 5th 2006: Our aim isTo Show the Lord: Acts 4:1-22

Daniel White...apprentice butcher

Over the years his training has been → on the job

Some.....sit down and listen

Some has been one to one

Most has happenedon the shop floor.....putting into practice

Being a Christian has its similarities

- **We grow in our knowledge of the Lord.....**by our listening be it in large or
Through our attention to the preaching
Our personal searching of the Scripture
Our openness to the Holy Spirit...constantly using exp to teach

Peter writes in 2 Peter 3: 17-18: *So that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position, Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

- **We also grow in our knowledge....**by our one to one relationship with the Lord
We look at His life.....and we seek to learn from Him
His prayer life.....His obedience to the Father.....Faith.....Sacrificial love

Hebrew 12:1 calls us *To fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*

Peterson in the Message: *Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it.*

- **But for us also→ The major way we develop as Christians....**

Work out our Apprenticeship if you like

Is by taking the Knowledge....and putting it into practice on the shop floor of life
Making mistakes

Surely this is what Paul is referring to....when he writes in PHIL 2:12—16

**The purpose →of the Knowledge you receive as Christians
→And the relationship you daily enjoy with....by the Spirit**

is thatYOU WILL SHINE LIKE THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE

*(When my daughter was a lot younger.....She got a packet of plastic stars
collect light during the daylight hours.....and then at night they reflect...)*

Be a waste to take that star...load it with light.....then stick it in a drawer...It would shine.....but

Is this not a picture of a Christian ???

Absorbing the knowledge of the Lord → In order that we might show the Lord

That's what our church Purpose statement for this year is all about:

C B Church exists to know... ..So that we might Show

In our reading today.... Story two men.....who had taken in a lot of knowledge of
Through teaching.....Through being with Him and having His Spirit
WHO now find themselves.....in a place of hostility....and intimidation

Arrested because.....Brought b4 Sanhedrin.....(the same body...)
And it is here that they show us what Showing the Lord is all about

Acts 4:13 says:-

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Now of course....took note.....probably just meant

But they rightly associated the courage.....as a connected factor

What this Sanhedrin had once seen in Jesus.....They were now seeing in these men
They were showing The Lord.....in their lives

- **Then in v20 Peter and John went on to say**

For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard

They realised.....That the knowledge they had gained through their relationship with
Had to come out.....

...→ In how they lived.....How they reacted to pressure.....What they proclaimed

*(I've often felt.....that it is just too easy in our society.....For Xtians to suffer
From Knowledge Constipation.....)*

That didn't seem to happen NT...→ Knowing Him was followed by Showing...(Baptism)

Read some time the NT book PHILEMON
It's a letter.....

The useless one.....after discovering...and growing in his knowledge
 Was now Showing the Lord

He was doing what Paul asked the Philippians to do in Phil 4:9.....
 In his daily life.....He was showing the Characteristics of Christ
 He was doing the Ministry of Christ

The Characteristics of Christ.....are Faith and Courage as seen in Peter & John
 They are also the fruit of the Spirit.....**Gal 5:22-23.....**

Most of us.....divide our lives....3 areas →Church life....work/social....Family
Is the fruit....evident....same degree in each area

PICK THE DIFFERENCE PUZZLE

The Challenge.....for us to look at those 3 areas.....and pick the difference
 More patience.....

AND IF YOU FIND A DISCREPANCY.....than confess it before the Lord
 Commit yourself to doing something about it

- **Then ...as well as Showing the characteristics.....**

Also to do the ministry...

And His ministry.....motivated by love

1 Corinthians 13 is the standard.....Christ has set v4-7.....

The first part....all about doing ministry for Jesus

But doing it ineffectively.....if there is no love

Speaking

Teaching and Interpreting

Ministries that demand great faith

Service to the poor and needy

Even giving one's life for the Lord.....**Yet if Love is missing.....That doing gains us**

Whatever ministry we do.....it only becomes the Ministry of Christ

While it is empowered.....motivated.....

By our love for Him....HIS love in us for others

- **That's what Jesus looks for in our ministry**

Not how skillful/polished.....Whether we make mistakes.....Seem 2B successful

...p44 The language of love

**As we seek to Show the Lord...especially in what we seek to do
for Him**

We need to be constantly praying →

**“Lord may others feel through this ministry
the Presence of God and the Presence of His Love”**