



Basic Bible Course

by Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

Second Case of Conversion —at SOLOMON’S PORCH



Lesson Fifteen

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson we introduced a study of “THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES” (short form: “ACTS”) as the **BOOK OF CONVERSIONS**. WE proposed to study all the **FACTS, PROMISES, WARNINGS** and **COMMANDS** connected with each of the 11 cases of conversion, clearly described in this book. Since **ACTS** contains **ALL THE CONVERSIONS** recorded in the Word of God, we reasoned that if we **BELIEVE** the **SAME FACTS**, **HEED** the **SAME WARNINGS**, and **OBEY** the **SAME COMMANDS** for the **SAME PURPOSES** as those converted in Acts, we should thus be **CONVERTED TO CHRIST** in the **SAME WAY** and enjoy the **SAME PROMISES** as they.

In our **INITIAL STUDY** of the Book of Acts, we considered the **FIRST CASE OF CONVERSION**—on **PENTECOST**—in Acts 2. When the multitude **BELIEVED** Peter’s preaching (i.e., were “pricked in their heart”) they asked him and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we **DO?**” Then Peter said unto them, “**REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (vv. 37-38). “They that **GLADLY** received his word **WERE BAPTIZED**” (v. 41). The same day there were “**ADDED**” unto them “about three thousand souls” (v. 41). “And the Lord **ADDED** to the **CHURCH** daily such as should be **SAVED**” (v. 47).

With these details from the **FIRST** case of conversion refreshed in our minds, let us now direct our attention to the **SECOND** case of conversion—at **SOLOMON’S PORCH**...Please read the entire account, Acts 3:1 to 4:4...

- I. PETER AND JOHN WENT TO THE TEMPLE AT THE HOUR OF PRAYER (v. 1).
 - A. It was the “ninth hour.”

NOTE: Please remember that the Jewish day began at 6 a.m., the way WE count time. Thus the “ninth hour” would be at 3 o’clock in the afternoon.

- II. A LAME BEGGAR ASKED AN ALMS (vv. 2-3).
 - A. Peter denied he had either silver or gold (vv. 4-6).
 - B. However, he offered to give the beggar what he had (v. 6).
 - C. Then he commanded the beggar, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” (v. 6).
 1. Remember that this man had been “lame from his mother’s womb” (v. 2).

2. Evidently, he had been unable to walk, for they “CARRIED...and LAID” him daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful (v. 2).
3. Yet, when Peter took him by the right hand, and lifted him up, “immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength” (v. 7).
4. The beggar—no longer lame—
 - a. leaped up
 - b. stood
 - c. walked
 - d. entered the temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping and praising God (v. 8).

III. ALL THE PEOPLE SAW THE MAN WALKING AND PRAISING GOD (v. 9).

- A. They knew it was the same man they had seen asking alms all these years at the Beautiful gate of the temple (v. 10).
- B. They were filled with wonder and amazement that he could now walk (v. 10).
- C. All the people ran together unto Peter, John and the healed man in Solomon’s Porch (v. 11).

IV. PETER ANSWERED UNTO THE PEOPLE (v. 12).

- A. He asked why they marveled at the healed man’s walking? (v. 12).
- B. He asked why they accredited himself and John for this miracle (v. 12).
 1. He denied it was by their own power or holiness that this healing had been performed.
- C. He said the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had healed the man to glorify His Son, Jesus (v. 13).
- D. He identified Jesus as the one they had delivered up, denied before Pilate, and killed (vv. 13-15).
- E. He declared that God had raised up Jesus (v. 15).
 1. He said he and John were witnesses to this fact (v. 15).
- F. He said that CHRIST’S NAME—through FAITH in his name—had made this man strong (v. 16).
- G. He recognized that both the people and their rulers crucified Christ through ignorance (v. 17).
- H. However, he showed that by their ignorance Jesus had been made to suffer, thus fulfilling prophecy (v. 18).
- I. To BLOT OUT their SINS, Peter commanded them to—
 1. REPENT
 2. BE CONVERTED (v. 19).
- J. If they did this, not only would their SINS BE BLOTTED OUT, but “TIMES OF REFRESHING” should come from the presence of the Lord (v. 19).
- K. Christ’s return was promised (v. 20).
 1. Prophecies cited as proof (vv. 21-24).
- L. Speaking of Christ, Moses had taught, “A prophet [Christ] shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; HIM shall ye HEAR in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will NOT HEAR that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people” (vv. 22-23).
- M. Peter emphasized that his listeners at Solomon’s Porch were “the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with [their] fathers” (v. 25).
 1. God had said unto Abraham, “And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed” (v. 25).

2. Thus, unto these “children” of the prophets and of the covenant, God, having raised up his Son Jesus, had sent him to them first (v. 26).
 - a. Jesus was sent to “bless” them, in ‘TURNING AWAY every one of (them) from his iniquities.’

- V. THE PRIESTS, CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE AND SADDUCEES WERE GRIEVED BY PETER’S AND JOHN’S PREACHING AND TEACHING THROUGH JESUS THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD (vv. 1-2).
 - A. They laid hands on them (v. 3).
 - B. They put them in jail overnight (v. 3).

- VI. HOWEVER, MANY WHO HAD WITNESSED PETER’S SPEECH, BELIEVED (v. 4).
 - A. They “HEARD the word.”
 - B. They “BELIEVED.”
 - C. The number of the men who believed was about five thousand.

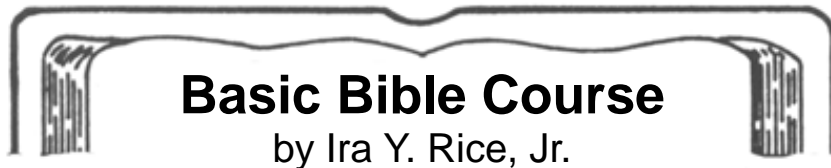
- VII. LATER ON—ALSO ON SOLOMON’ PORCH—“BELIEVERS” WERE THE MORE “ADDED” TO THE LORD (5:12-14).
 - A. Those “added” were “multitudes both of men and women” (v. 14).

NOTE: Compare what Peter told those on PENTECOST (Acts 2:38) with what he told those at SOLOMON’S PORCH (Acts 3:19) as follows:

“REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.”—Acts 2:38, Peter on Pentecost.

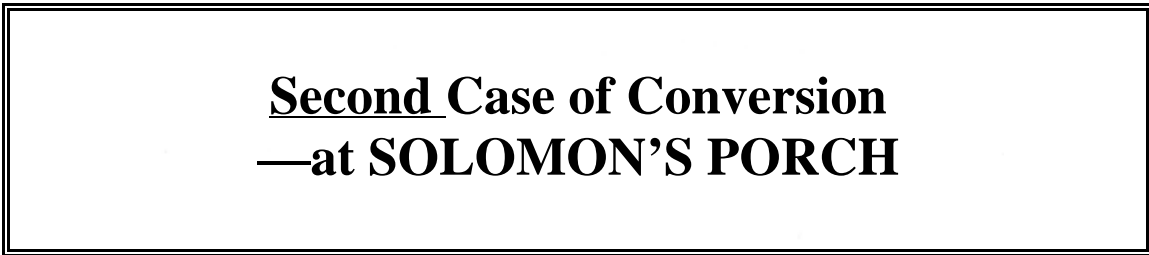
“REPENT ye therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your SINS may be BLOTTED OUT, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord.”—Acts 3:19, Peter at Solomon’s Porch.

Do you perceive that Peter was merely using TWO DIFFERENT CHOICES OF WORDS for saying the SAME THING in BOTH these passages? To both groups Peter commanded, “REPENT.” On Pentecost he next commanded, “BE BAPTIZED;” whereas, at Solomon’s Porch, he said, “BE CONVERTED”—evidently having the same thought in mind. Repentance and baptism were “FOR REMISSION OF SINS” on Pentecost; repentance and conversion were “THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT” at Solomon’s Porch...



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Lesson Fifteen

Questions on Lesson Fifteen

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

REFERENCE NO. _____

GRADE _____

1. What four things are we studying connected with each of the 11 cases of conversion described in Acts? _____

2. If we today follow the same teaching and approved action as they followed in the Book of Acts, should we achieve the same results? _____
3. How many souls joined the church on Pentecost? _____
4. What time of day did Peter and John go to the temple in Acts 3? _____
5. What special person saw them as they were about to go into the temple? _____
6. List five FACTS you have learned from your study of Acts 3 concerning this lame man:

7. What did the lame man ask of Peter and John? _____
8. Did Peter and John give the lame man what he asked? _____ If not, what did they give him?

9. In whose name (i.e., by whose authority) did Peter command the lame man to “rise up and walk”?

10. What happened to the lame man, after Peter said this? _____

11. What effect did it have on the people, when they saw the healed lame man walking and praising God?

12. Where did the multitude run together unto them? _____
13. Who did Peter tell the people had made this man to walk?

14. In making him (the lame man) to walk what had God done for his Son Jesus?

15. Peter said that God had done something else for his son, of which he and John were witnesses. What was it? _____
16. What means did God use to make the lame man strong? _____
17. Why had God permitted the people and their rulers to kill Jesus? _____

- 18. Had they done it wilfully or through ignorance? _____
- 19. To blot out their sins, what did Peter command them to do?

- 20. If they did this, what else did Peter promise should come from the presence of the Lord?

- 21. How long must the heaven receive Jesus Christ before he comes again?

- 22. What did Moses prophesy concerning Jesus? _____

What were the people to do concerning Jesus? _____

- 23. How did God purpose to bless the people through sending his Son?

- 24. Why did the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees put Peter and John in jail?

- 25. How many people at Solomon's porch BELIEVED and were ADDED unto the Lord? _____

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? _____

