

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

Store In My Heart

Romans 3:23

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives. (Amplified Version)

Nobody's perfect. Everyone needs God to be free from sin. We are lost without Him and the redemption found through Christ.

This is why we need to keep God's Word close in our minds. If we fail to keep check on our heart and actions we can so easily slip into the sin that surrounds us.

Putting our trust in Christ and the Word He has given to guide our life will help us avoid and overcome sin. Carrying the Word in our minds will give us constant access to the help that God has provided. The more we depend on God the easier it will be to keep away from the things that may cause us to stumble. Be diligent in your study.



“Filled With Jealousy”

Brent Moody

I'm teaching Acts right now. The first few chapters show the religious leaders to be weak, cowardly men. They were *"filled with jealousy"* (5:17). They *"were enraged and wanted to kill them"* (5:33). In **Chapter 4** they couldn't deny that Peter and John had healed a lame man, but they still threaten them and tell them to stop talking about Jesus. They use force to arrest them multiple times, but then they don't act on it due to selfish concerns.

They would have punished them, but the text says they found *"no way to punish them, because of the people"* (4:21). In **Chapter 5** they also handle them carefully because they *"were afraid of being stoned by the people"* (5:26).

They weren't interested in what was right. Leaders who care about what is right do it no matter what the people think. They act in the best interest of the people. These jealous religious leaders were out for their own glory. They had to carefully and craftily deal with Peter and John to make sure it didn't hurt their own reputation. What is truly sad about these men is that they admitted that Peter and John were doing amazing things. Why not praise how God was working through them? That's what jealousy does to people.

1. The leaders were not acting because Peter and John were teaching something false and harmful. They acted in opposition to truth. Just because rulers and leaders claim things, doesn't mean those things are true. Sometimes

they act against what is clearly true. This happened to both Jesus and the Apostles. The Gospel of John shows rulers frequently denouncing Jesus as he is healing people.

2. The leaders' actions were based on jealousy and fear, not keeping the law. They do not desire to actually help people. They attempted to manipulate and sway the people for their own benefit.

These **Acts** stories are a bit humorous because Peter twice shames these jealous men who are so concerned with exalting their own image and status (**Acts 4:8-12, 19-20; 5:29-32**).

I do like Gamaliel a lot. I hope that he came to fully see truth. He gives great advice to these envious men in **Acts 5:34-39**. Saul, one of his students, eventually follows Jesus. Who knows, maybe Gamaliel did too.

(Brent Moody preaches for the Decker Prairie Church of Christ in Magnolia, Texas. He is one of several preachers whose writings and discussions I follow on Facebook. These men offer insight and background for my Bible studies. I have at times failed to consider culture and geography much in my study. This is probably due to my own background and it's emphasis on "Bible only" study. Seeing how others reach sound Bible insights using such things helps me remember to include such in my own studies. It seems more and more I am part of the older crowd online and though age and experience are benefits, we must never forget that learning is a process that should never end for Christians. We all benefit when we help one another better understand Scripture.

There are also many resources for women to help one another in study. Let us diligently study so we might be approved of God. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Gloria Hurst is scheduled for scans to help determine the best course for her surgery and recovery.

Vickie McNeas is in a walking boot now but her recovery is slow.

Bill Venable's daughter-in-law still has not had surgery. The plan is for it to happen Monday. They have had several setbacks in preparation and the surgery schedule is also full.

Stanly & Gloria Hurst are in NW Arkansas. Jimmy & Annette Gray are also out of town.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 9:20**. Wednesday Evening - **1Peter 4:10**.

Remember our men's meeting after AM service November 19.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

