

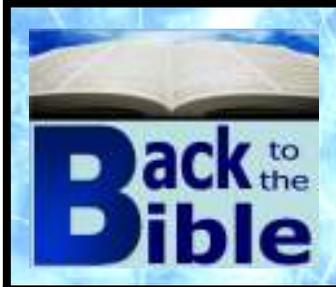
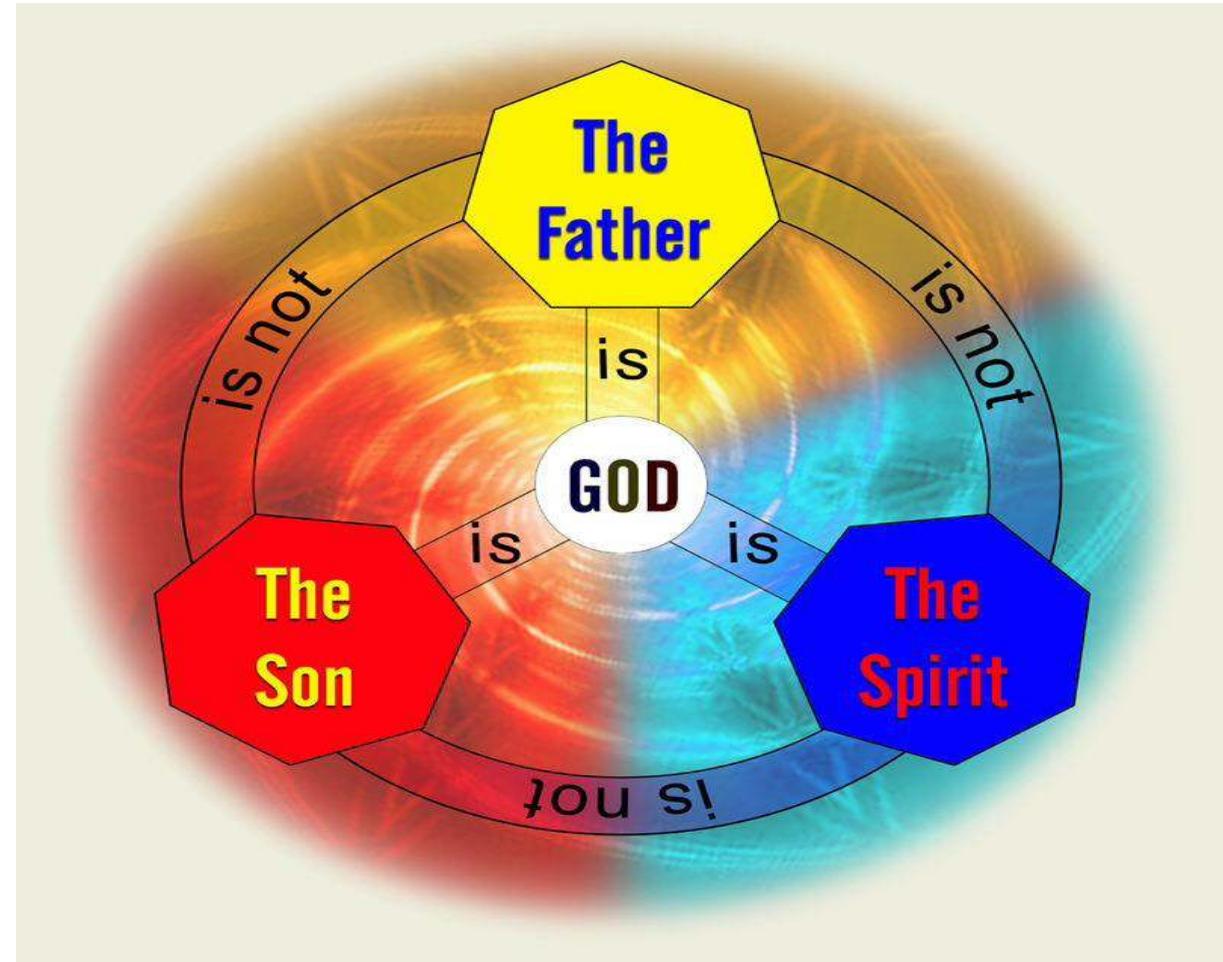


Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Supreme Sermon
 Afternoon: Our Daily Walk

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	33
Sunday AM Worship	45
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Offering	\$1715



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

**"A GREAT COMPANY OF THE PRIESTS
 WERE OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH"**
 Roger D. Campbell

This encouraging truth is found in Acts 6:7. The first six verses of that chapter record how the Jerusalem congregation, under the direction of the apostles, selected seven brothers to attend to the needs of some of the widows in the church who had been neglected. It was on the heels of that activity that the Bible presents the three memorable facts that compose the seventh verse: *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."* What do we see in this verse?

Someone Was Teaching. The Bible says that *"the word of God increased."* God's word certainly did not increase in power. It did not increase in its importance, nor did it increase in its ability to meet man's spiritual needs. More than likely the reference is to the word being propagated more or in a more widespread fashion than it had been. The apostles had been involved teaching daily both publicly and privately (Acts 5:41,42). As a result, the number of disciples "was multiplied" (6:1), and as the teaching of the gospel continued and increased, the number of new converts "multiplied greatly" (6:7). No one becomes

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a follower of the Christ by accident. Faith is required, and faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). Thus, every time in the Bible that we read of a convert to the Lord, it is always preceded by teaching. That is still true today. Brothers and sisters, it is no secret. If we want the church to grow in number, if we really want souls to be saved, then we have got to be involved actively in teaching the gospel! Yes someone "was" teaching back then. May it always be true of us today that God can say that someone "is" teaching!

Someone Was Listening. We know that a bunch of the priests were listening, because they eventually became disciples. We may sometimes get the feeling that nobody is paying any attention when we present the truth, but rest assured that some are seriously contemplating what they hear from us. Little children often are listening intently. Among those that hear our radio broadcasts or receive our mailings, some are listening and carefully weighing what they hear or read. We must not allow ourselves to buy into this deception: "No one wants the truth, so what is the point of even trying to teach it?" Teach it we must, regardless of the response that people have to it! At work, at home, in a Bible class, or wherever you might spread the glad tidings, some folks are listening!

Someone Was Obedient. As the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem, one category of new converts is specified: "a great company of the priests" (6:7). How great was that?! Jewish priests – those whom we would expect to be hardcore, lifetime adherents to Judaism, left their fathers' religion to follow Jesus. Surely the average member of the church did not see that one coming. After all, the Jewish leaders led the opposition to our Lord. True, some of the chief rulers earlier believed on Him, but they would not confess Him (John 12:42,43). But, really, who would have anticipated that so many priests would accept the truth? The gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). In that power we dare not doubt! There may be some groups or individuals that we would not presently peg as "good prospects." But, again, our task is to teach and teach and teach some more, and let the listeners decide for themselves what they want to do with God's word. God's word will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11).

Something Was Obeyed. The Bible says that the priests "*were obedient to the faith.*" The Holy Spirit says that there is "one faith" (Ephesians 4:5). The apostle Paul said that he first destroyed "the faith," then later preached it (Galatians 1:23). "The faith" which the priests obeyed is the system of faith known as "the gospel." In New Testament

language, "obey the faith" (Acts 6:7) is the same as "obey the gospel" (2 Thessalonians 1:8), which is equal to "obey the truth" (Romans 2:8). Since those converted priests were saved and added to the church (Acts 2:47), we have to conclude that "obeying the faith" also means the same thing as obeying Jesus, since He is the author of eternal salvation to those that obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). No one is saved by obeying a man-made, devil-delivered message. The truth, and only the truth, sets men free from sin (John 8:32).

I do not know about you, but I find Acts 6:7 to be a thrilling declaration. The facts indicate that someone was teaching, someone was listening, someone was obedient, and something was obeyed. To God be the glory! Brethren, the year is more than half over. We cannot go back and have a redo on the first six months of 2009, but we *can* be determined to put forth a more zealous, consistent effort in spreading the gospel during the rest of the time that the Lord grants to us on this earth. Can our Lord count on you and me to do just that?

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:1-4).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- NOTE: There will be no bulletin next Sunday, October 15
- Oct 15 – Guest Speaker – Caleb Rutherford (from Warners Chapel)
- Oct 29 – Song Service
- Nov 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell