

FOUR DIFFERENT RESPONSES

When you study Acts 24-26, you read about four different responses to the same gospel message. You are going to read about Felix, Festus, Herod Agrippa and Paul. The gospel was preached to each one of them and each responded in a different manner.

Felix heard Paul preach concerning his faith in Christ. As Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance (self-control), and judgment to come, Felix trembled and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. (Acts 24:24,25). He trembled at the thought of what Paul had said, but he did nothing.

Festus was the next to hear Paul. It seems that Festus had no knowledge of Christianity or this man Jesus they were talking about. In fact, he thought Paul was mad (Acts 26:24) Paul said I am not mad but am speaking forth the words of truth and soberness (sound-mind).

Agrippa was the next one. He is the one who responded "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"(Acts 26:28). Paul said not almost but altogether a Christian, except these bonds. As far as we know, none of these men ever changed their minds.

Paul was the other one mentioned. You read about his response in Acts 9, 22, 26.

Become such as I am. L. Cole

A BROKEN WORLD

"What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered" (Ecclesiastes 1:15).

Because of the damage sin has done to this world, our hearts will never find what they truly need here. This world is simply not what it was created to be, and to live in it is to hurt deeply. No one has tasted the bitterness of our experience any more than God Himself. He has lived among us, and when His great heart pondered the magnitude and the hurtfulness of what has gone wrong, Jesus wept (John 11:35).

It is foolish to underestimate the brokenness of this world. The more truly wise we become, the more we see the utter wretchedness of our earthly condition. "In much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18). The wise man, who has come to see that this world is tragically and irretrievably broken, will tend to be a man of sorrows. The unwelcome truth is this: we cannot have anything more than partial happiness as long as we live here. Our deepest needs cannot and will not be fully met in this life. To pretend otherwise is dangerously dishonest, and we'll be better off the minute we stop denying the seriousness of our unmet needs.

Yet it is also foolish to underestimate God. As much as we need to face this world's brokenness, we need even more to face the ultimate reality of God. We must learn to

see His mercy as our salvation, His promise as our joy. As we fix our hope on His perfection, however, we must still not forget the imperfection of the world. God's Son did not die to make us healthier, wealthier, and happier in the here and now. He died to redeem us from the sin that is in our hearts and to give us eternal life. God gives us help, but He does not plan to fix this world. What He plans to fix is us -- and then bring us to live where He is. As for this world, God plans to destroy it.

"In our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God" (Aeschylus). Let us deal no more in superficial, sentimental solutions. Let us let God be God.

*"To know of God without knowing of man's misery causes pride.
To know of man's misery without knowing of God causes despair"
(Blaise Pascal).*

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*Diligently Seeking God: Daily Motivation to Take God More  
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## **HOW CAREFULLY WE WOULD TEACH IF WE WERE REALLY WISE**

Socrates said over 2,000 years ago: "Could I climb to the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim: 'Fellow citizens, why do ye turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom one day you must relinquish it all.'"

We are concerned about the little training in the Bible which the children in America are receiving. We do not claim to know exactly how it can be done in every instance, but we are committed to the proposition that America's greatest need is spiritual rather than material. We believe we must restore God to the central place in our training program for our children.

If God is our creator, if he is our Father, if he is the one who sustains us, and gives us every blessing, then we cannot really understand anything in his universe apart from him. Everything relates to him. We came from him. We live to fulfill his purpose for us. We shall face him in the judgment. He cannot be ignored or relegated to the periphery of our life with impunity.

We pray that God will help our generation to restore him to his proper place in the training of our children.

*"I saw tomorrow look at me  
From little children's eyes,  
And thought how carefully we would teach  
If we were really wise."*

*—Helen Young, Sixth & Izard, Little Rock Ark.*

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE  
WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM**

**APR 22, 2018**

Co-Coordinator . . . . . George Clay

Announcements . . . . . Dallas Eddie

Scriptures Reading..Matt. 9:10-12....Gavin Spurlin

Song Leader . . . . . Steve Anderson

Opening Prayer. . . . .Jacky Carver, Sr.

Lord's Supper-Preside: Robert Hackett

Serve:, Mitchell Brooks, Ethan Leonard

Justin Draper, Roger Draper,

Closing Prayer ..... Glen Reece

Greeter— Dianna Dillehay & Susanne

Greeter— Glen & Patsy Reece

**Greeters: Please be here to greet 20 minutes before services.**

Count Offering. . . . . Dallas Eddie

.....Kaleb Bush

AM Sermon—Christ Receiveth Sinful Men

PM Sermon— Fourth Sunday Singing

**WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM**

Announcements . . . . . Dallas Eddie

Song Leader. . . . . Steve Anderson

Scripture Reading...Psa. 135:1-3 ... Austin Clay

Opening Prayer . . . . .Mitchell Brooks

Lord's Supper . . . . .Jacky Carver, Sr.

..... Gavin Spurlin

Closing Prayer . . . . . Roger Draper

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM**

Announcement..... Dallas Eddie

Song Leader . . . . . Glen Reece

First Prayer. . . . .Jacky Carver, Sr.

Opening Prayer . . . . . Glen Reece

Closing Prayer . . . . . Kaleb Bush

**Prepare Communion for APR**

**Susanne & Teresa**

**Pantry Item: Spaghetti Sauce**

**MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD**

**NURSING HOME:**

Opal Agee-Kindred

Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,

Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home

**THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;**

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,  
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,  
Ramelie Cole, Carolyn Clay  
Jere Andrews, Tim Smith,  
Billy Halliburton, Susanne Tisdale

**OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST**

04/15/18

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Wednesday . . . . .             | 32  |
| Worship Sunday AM . . . . .     | 72  |
| Bible Study Sunday AM . . . . . | 61  |
| Daily Bible Readers . . . . .   | 28  |
| Worship Sunday PM . . . . .     | N/A |

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Apr. 20th.** Meal and Bowling in Cookeville  
**Apr. 22nd.** Fellowship Meal and Senior Night  
**Apr. 22-25 SEIBS Lectures**  
**Apr. 29** 5th. Sunday. Speaker from GBN Young Men Conduct PM Worship Service

**READING SCHEDULE FOR APR**

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 01 I Kgs. 4-7   | 11 II Kgs 16-18 | 21 I Chr 23-25  |
| 02 I Kgs 8-11   | 12 II Kgs 19-21 | 22 I Chr 26=29  |
| 03 I Kgs 12-14  | 13 II Kgs 22-24 | 23 II Chr 1-4   |
| 04 I Kgs 15-17  | 14 II Kgs 25    | 24 II Chr 5-7   |
| 05 I Kgs 18-20  | I Chron 1-2     | 25 II Chr 8-10  |
| 06 I Kgs 21-22  | 15 I Chr 3-6    | 26 II Chr 11-13 |
| II Kings 1      | 16 I Chr 7-10   | 27 II Chr 14-17 |
| 07 II Kgs 2-5   | 17 I Chr 11-13  | 28 II Chr 18-20 |
| 08 II Kgs 6-9   | 18 I Chr 14-16  | 29 II Chr 21-24 |
| 09 II Kgs 10-12 | 19 I Chr 17-19  | 30 II Chr 25-27 |
| 10 II Kgs 13-15 | 20 I Chr 20-22  |                 |