

**Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2006: Our aim is ....To 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 happened .....on 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 that .....YOU 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”**