

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
Third Quarter 2015: *Missionaries*
Lesson 10 “Philip as Missionary”

Read for this week’s study

2 Corinthians 4:18; Acts 2:44–47, 4:34–37, 6:1–7; Acts 8, 21:7–10.

Memory Text

“ ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth’ ” (Acts 1:8, NIV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Philip the Evangelist
- III. Waiting on Tables
- IV. Philip in Samaria
- V. With the Ethiopian
- VI. Philip as Evangelist, Father, and Host
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. How many “Philips” are there in the New Testament? Which of them could be called “missionaries?” The Philip in our lesson is described as someone who did good work yet we know very little about his accomplishments. When it comes to the work of God, how much does recognition matter? Is it important not only to be doing the mission, but to be SEEN to be doing the mission? (Sunday’s lesson)
2. Read Acts 2:44-47 and 4:34-37. What was the earliest church like? Would it be possible to reproduce that situation in today’s world or was it a one-time occurrence that is not likely to be repeated? (Monday’s lesson)
3. Read Acts 6:1-7. What problems arose in the earliest church? Are these kinds of divisions something to be ashamed of or the norm for how church life goes and how its problems should get solved? What was Philip’s role in helping the church deal with the divisions? Can we learn any lessons here for how the church can or should handle the matter of women’s ordination? Do women need female leaders as much as the Greek-speaking Christians needed Greek leaders to represent them? (Monday’s lesson)

4. Read Acts 8:1-6. What was the positive outcome from the persecution of the church in Jerusalem? Why is it that the twelve apostles didn't have to leave Jerusalem even though rest of the church there was devastated? (Tuesday's lesson)
5. Read Acts 8:6-17. How successful was Philip's ministry in Samaria? How did his ministry there build on the earlier visit of Jesus (John 4:37-42)? How did Philip address the issue of Simon's request (Acts 8:18-24)? What does this teach us about mission? (Tuesday's lesson)
6. Read Acts 8:26-39. What were the texts in Isaiah that the Ethiopian was reading? How was Philip's outreach to the Ethiopian different than what he did in Samaria? Was this shift a necessary part of Philip's outreach to the Ethiopian? What are the implications in this shift for mission today? (Wednesday's lesson)
7. Read Acts 8:40. How does this account square with Philip's job description given in Acts 6? What more do we learn about Philip from Acts 21:7-10? When travel is involved in mission, how does the missionary raise his or her children in the Lord?
8. Read Acts 21:15-22. What relation does the situation in Acts 21 have to the divisions recorded in Acts 6 (Acts 21:15-22)? Do some things never change? What does the entire Philip story tell us about mission? What does it tell us about God? (Thursday's lesson)
9. In what ways were Stephen (Acts 6:13-14) and Philip precursors of Paul? What is it about the cross that is the great equalizer, breaking down the cultural, social and religious barriers that divide people? On the other hand, why are so many Christian countries still violent places? (Friday's lesson)
10. What should our attitude be toward people we greatly disagree with, yet come under persecution? Is there ever a time when religious persecution is appropriate? (Friday's lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

The universe watched as the most rigorous, blueprinting, law abiding, Bible quoting, seventh-day Sabbath keeping, tithe paying, health reforming Adventists the world has ever known torture the Son of God to death. They offered Him the obedience that springs from law and from fear because of their picture of God. And Saul was the best one among them, in the Sanhedrin, much younger than others; he was the best representative they had. And he really was dedicated to God, the Bible and the blueprint, and he *persecuted* because his God would do that! Obey God or face judgment, vengeance and destruction in the end. And he was willing to do it for God.

When he saw the truth about God, and he knew it or he couldn't have written Romans 1, 2 and 3, he realized that the obedience that springs from law and fear based on a misunderstanding

of God, and a rejection of light and truth about God, the obedience that comes from accepting the devil's picture of God but still obeying God just the same, actually turns you into the most cruel, hard-hearted, torturing person you could imagine. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Three Angels' Messages, #3, recorded October, 1981, Loma Linda, California}

To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:

<http://pkp.cc/3MM3ANGELSM>

Now rote, mechanical, legalistic, unthinking obedience implies a rote, mechanical, unthinking, legalistic, arbitrary God. And those who God chose to be His spokesmen to the world turned out to be the most serious perverters of the truth. To the extent that, when Christ came to set them right, remember, and give a correct picture of God, it was His family, His Sabbath-keeping saints in the Promised Land, who killed Him rather than accept the truth. {Graham Maxwell.

Excerpt from the audio presentation, Galatians, #5, recorded March, 1978, Loma Linda, California}

To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:

<http://pkp.cc/5MMGALATIANS66>

Further Study with Ellen White

Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. An angel showed Philip where to find the Ethiopian, who was so ready to receive the truth, and today angels will guide and direct the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues, and refine and ennoble their hearts. The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God's way of working. It is his plan that men are to work for their fellow men. {RH, March 2, 1911 par. 16}

In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained all of heaven's resources. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If all were willing to receive, all would become filled with His Spirit.

{COL 419.1}

It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts. {COL 419.2}

The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others. {COL 419.4}

The Lord wants everyone of us to fill the very place He has appointed us. If we will walk in simplicity and godliness, and trust in the Lord, just as the little child trusts its earthly parent, He will enable us to do the work He has given us to do. If we will seek the Lord, He will work for us. {UL 130.5}

An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts. {CC 332.6}