

# The First Principles

## Class 3 • The Apostles' Public Lectures

- The “Gospel” was a good place to start, because it is described by Scripture as something that must be believed before baptism - One of our definitions of a First Principle
- Another way to determine which Principles were important enough to be taught before baptism is to look at the Acts, and see what the Apostle’s taught as preliminary to baptisms.
- There are nine (9) First Principles lectures in Acts. Lectures designed specifically to lead the hearers to faith, repentance and baptism.
- The Acts are probably the MOST helpful, so we will get the deepest into these verses. This is the time period when they were actively preaching and baptizing. When we get later into the Letters, they were mainly supporting existing Ecclesias.
- There are nine (9) Lectures in Acts designed specifically to lead the hearers to faith, repentance and baptism.
- Divide into groups, read through your section, and see if you can find the First Principles. (I’ll give you a hint, though... Your chart has four empty spaces on it... I left them there, because we find four new First Principles here...
- Peter in Jerusalem
- Acts 2:22-42
  - 22) Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: **#5**
  - 23) Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **#2 #6**
  - 24) Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. **#7**
  - 25) For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:
  - 26) Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

- 27) Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- 28) Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.
- 29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. **#13**
- 30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
- 31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
- 32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
- 33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
- 34) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
- 35) Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
- 36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- 37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- 38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **#15**
- 39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
- 41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- 42) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

• The Doctrine of Breaking of Bread - **#17**

• Peter at the Healing of the Lame Man

• Acts 3:12-26

- 12) And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
- 13) The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. **#6**

- 14) But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;
- 15) And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. **#7**
- 16) And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
- 17) And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.
- 18) But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. **#1**
- 19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.
- 20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **#9**
- 21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. **#13 – The Restoration of the Throne of David**
- 22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. **#5**
- 23) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. **#11**
- 24) Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.
- 25) Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. **#12**
- 26) Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. **#7 #4 #15**

- Stephen at His Stoning

- Acts 7:2-56

- 2) And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,
- 3) And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. **#12**
- 4) Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.
- 5) And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

- 37) This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. **#5**
- 38) This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: **#1**
- 52) Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: **#6**
- 53) Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.
- 54) When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.
- 55) But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **#7**
- 56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

- Philip with the Ethiopian

- Acts 8:30-39

- 30) And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
- 31) And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
- 32) The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
- 33) In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.
- 34) And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? **#5**
- 35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
- 36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
- 37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. **#4**
- 38) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. **#15**
- 39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

- Peter to Cornelius

- Acts 10:34-48

- 34) Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
- 35) But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. #16 – The Importance of the One Body
- 36) The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)
- 37) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
- 38) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. #2 - The Holy Spirit is God's Power
- 39) And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: #6
- 40) Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; #7
- 41) Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.
- 42) And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. #10 #11
- 43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. #1
- 44) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
- 45) And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
- 47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
- 48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. #15

- Paul in Antioch

- Acts 13:15-39

- 23) Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: #5 #13
- 24) When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

- 25) And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.
- 26) Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.
- 27) For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. **#1**
- 28) And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. **#6**
- 29) And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.
- 30) But God raised him from the dead: **#7**
- 31) And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.
- 32) And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, **#12**
- 33) God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. **#4**
- 34) And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.
- 35) Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- 36) For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:
- 37) But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.
- 38) Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: **#15**
- 39) And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

- Paul in Athens on Mars Hill

- Acts 17:22-31

- 22) Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- 23) For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.
- 24) God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; **#2**
- 25) Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

- 26) And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- 27) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- 28) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
- 29) Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.
- 30) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: #15
- 31) Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. #5 #7 #9 #10 #11

- Paul in Caesarea to Felix

- Acts 24:14-21

- 14) But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: #1
- 15) And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. #10 #11
- 16) And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.
- 17) Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.
- 18) Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.
- 19) Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.
- 20) Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council,
- 21) Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

- Paul in Jerusalem to Festus and Agrippa

- Acts 26:2-27

- 2) I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

- 3) Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.
- 4) My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;
- 5) Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.
- 6) And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God, unto our fathers: #12
- 7) Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
- 8) Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? #10
- 9) I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 10) Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.
- 11) And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.
- 12) Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,
- 13) At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.
- 14) And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
- 15) And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
- 16) But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
- 17) Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
- 18) To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. **#15**
- 19) Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:
- 20) But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and #16 throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. #15



- 21) For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.
- 22) Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:
- 23) That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.  
**#6 #7**
- 24) And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.
- 25) But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.
- 26) For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.
- 27) King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.