

PASTOR KORY'S PAGE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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ONE-LINERS

Car bumpers, billboards, and other advertisements are plastered with catchy one-liners. Benjamin Franklin made a name for himself as he coined one-liners during the 1700s. Solomon filled an entire book with Spirit-inspired one-liners, the Old Testament book of Proverbs. Some portions of the Bible are *meant* to be digested in small bites. Much of the Psalms and Proverbs are written with one wise one-liner after another. However, most of Scripture is intended to be read *in context*, meaning that a passage is meant to be understood as part of the larger narrative and book in which it is written.

What I am about to share with you are, admittedly, one-liners that I have taken out of context. However, I share them with you because these biblical statements are so relevant for God's people, both in the first century and twenty-first century! There's a lot of talk today about "making God relevant" but I don't think we need to make God relevant when He is *already* more relevant than anything else! See for yourself as you consider these one-liners from the book of Acts. (And please join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the gym as we explore this amazing book of Scripture!)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). God's people today are empowered by His same Holy Spirit to continue obeying His command to make disciples of all nations!

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off." (Acts 2:38-39) As he shares the Good News of Jesus on Pentecost Sunday, Peter leads the people to the promises of baptism. Through baptism, God washes away your sins, grants you His Holy Spirit, and claims you as His children! "God's own child: I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!" (LSB 594)

"[Jesus] must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets" (Acts 3:21). Jesus has ascended to His rightful throne in heaven. During these last days, He works through His Spirit and His Church to expand His Kingdom of faith. Our Christian Hope points us

forward to the Day of our Lord's Return—the day when Jesus will come to "restore everything"!

"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Have you seen the movie, *Risen*? Near the end of the film, Peter and the other apostles scatter in various directions to begin sharing the Good News of Jesus with people near and far. Peter speaks to the fictional character, Clavius, and says something like, "After what we've seen, how could we do anything else?"

"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables" (Acts 6:2). The Twelve Apostles quickly became overwhelmed with the growth of the Church. Because they cared about both the ministry of proclamation and the ministry of caregiving, the Apostles appointed men like Stephen to assist with meeting physical needs of fellow believers so that they could focus on prayer, teaching, and preaching.

"The Bereans ... received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). Whenever you hear a Christian speaker, read a Christian website posting, or sit down with a Christian book, follow the Bereans' example: test everything according to Scripture!

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 21:35). Yes, this one-liner IS found in Scripture! How have you done with putting it into practice lately? *Live generously!*

"What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things ... I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner." (Acts 26:25-26) Paul testifies before kings and governors that the Good News of Jesus is a matter of *historical fact*. Jesus was crucified in full view of the populace of Jerusalem. In the days and weeks to come, He appeared, risen from the dead, to trustworthy and reliable witnesses, and convinced them that He was alive!

Peace in Christ,

Kory Janneke, Associate Pastor

P.S. – Check out the information in the News Notes regarding the "Preparing for a Blessed End" workshop on June 18 at Our Redeemer. Also, don't miss the newsletter from Vicar Heckmann and the letter from Pastor Corey Aker. Please keep the Akers and St. Paul Lutheran in Paducah, Kentucky in your prayers.