

Acts 8:14-25

Simon – “hearing,” “hearing with acceptance”

14 In a life-and-death situation in Jerusalem yet they saw the need in Samaria

Irony: Peter and John sent yet John had desired to call down fire on Samaritans – Luke 9:52-54

15 Philip could not pass on the ability of miracles

16 “Falling on” – they had the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) but couldn’t perform miracles

17 2 objectives in mind:

1. Acceptance of Samaritans into the church. No problems like that to the Gentiles, Ch. 11, possibly because of Jesus’ dealings with the Samaritans, John 8.

2. Enable Samaritan Christians to function after Peter, John, and Philip are gone.

18 Philip – see Roper Commentary – Simon tries to buy from Peter and John

“Simony” – prevalent sin in the Middle Ages – buying and selling of church offices or privileges.

20 Literally: “may your silver [go] with you into [eternal destruction]!”

Doesn’t send him straight to Hell, v. 25

21 Literally: your heart is not straight

3 things:

1. Though we are children of God, we can go back into sin.
2. After becoming Christians, we still have weaknesses of the flesh.
3. Though we sin grievously as Christians, we can still return to God.

22 “if possible” – not to God’s ability to forgive but to Simon’s ability to repent

23 “Gall of bitterness” – Hebrew expression for “extreme bitterness”

Gall [gallbladder] is a bitter liquid; literally in the “bitterness of bitterness”

Gleaned from commentaries on Acts by David Roper, Wayne Jackson, Don Iverson.