

## Company - cont.

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- Third, the reminder that God is in control even over the bad things that happen in life (4:27-28).

*for of a truth in this city against thy holy Servant Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatsoever thy hand and thy council foreordained to come to pass (Acts 4:27-28).*

- Fourth, the boldness needed to speak out for Jesus (Acts 4:29-31).

*And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest forth thy hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of thy holy Servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken wherein they were gathered together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:29-31)*

The local church should not be a place of distrust, division, or dread. The assembly of the local church can and should be a place that we look forward to coming to in order to be built up with our “own company” of brethren. - Chris Reeves

## Word of the Week

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### - Acceptable -

“Acceptable” is an adjective and it is used for the Christian who is favorable or well-pleasing to God. We don’t need to worry about being acceptable to the world. We need to live in a way that we are acceptable to God by following his word (Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:18; 1 Peter 2:5).

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# They Came to Their Own Company

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In the book of Acts, Luke records how the Lord's church had just been established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1-2). Then, the Apostle Peter performed a miracle of healing and he continued preaching the good news about Jesus (Acts 3). Soon, Peter and John were arrested for preaching in the name of Jesus and they were brought before the Jewish council, threatened, and then let go (Acts 4).

When Peter and John were released from jail, Luke records something very important. He wrote that they returned "to their own company" after being persecuted (Acts 4:23). They didn't go to be with their worldly friends or physical families. They went to be with their "own company" - their fellow-brethren in Christ. What lessons can be learned from this?

Friend, do you have an assembly of Christians to associate with? Many do not because they choose not to become a Christian and be a member of a local church of Christ. One reason Jesus built his church (Matthew 16:18) - a local group of Christians - was to give a person a place to gather with others of like mind. The local church is a place to belong and be cared for (Matthew 18:15-17). When you are

baptized into Christ, the Lord adds you to his church (Acts 2:47) so you can have a group of people to be with you and help you. The Lord does not want you to live an isolated life.

Friend, do you know where the saints meet? When we are baptized into Christ, we are to join ourselves together with other Christians. This is what Paul did after he became a Christian (Acts 9:26). We are to be "members one of another" (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25) and "members of his body" (Ephesians 5:30).

Additionally, we are not to forsake our assembling together as is the custom of some (Hebrews 10:25). We are to be present in the assemblies of the church to stir up and be stirred up to love and good works.

Friend, do you go to other Christians first for help and encouragement? Who did Peter and John go to when they were released from jail? Did they go to the world? Did they go to family? Did they go somewhere to escape their troubles? Did they go on a vacation? No, they went to their fellow-brethren in Christ. They went to the people who would help them the most.

Do we do they same? When we are having troubles, do we seek out the com-

pany of our fellow-brethren, or do we turn to someone else? We are to prefer Christian associations over the world (Psalm 16:3; 42:4; 119:63; Proverbs 13:20). We are also to gain strength and encouragement from one another (Acts 12:11-12; 16:40).

When you read Acts 4:23-31, you can learn four important blessings that will be gained by your association together with other Christians. Here they are:

- First, the power of prayer and praise to God (Acts 4:23-24).

*And they, when they heard it, lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, O Lord, thou that didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that in them is (Acts 4:24).*

- Second, the hearing of scripture being quoted (Acts 4:25-26)

*who by the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father David thy servant, didst say, Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth set themselves in array, And the rulers were gathered together, Against the Lord, and against his Anointed (Acts 4:25-26).*