

**What's the Bible All About?**  
**5 - The Best News – the Gospel**  
*Proclamation (Acts)*  
*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa*

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**What's the Bible all about? In a word...**

**REDEMPTION!**

So far we've seen...

The Biggest Problem: Sin -	Genesis 1-11
The Greatest Promise: Salvation -	Genesis 12 to Malachi
The Greatest Gift: Jesus -	Gospels – Matthew,
Mark, Luke, John	

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles were both written by Luke. They were originally a two-volume set of narratives:

**Gospel of Luke:** Jesus' birth, life, earthly ministry, death, resurrection & ascension

**Acts of the Apostles:** Jesus' ascension; Holy Spirit given to the Apostles; Gospel proclamation; first churches planted!

God works through many people throughout the book of Acts, but there are two main characters:

Peter (Acts 1-12) and Paul (Acts 13-28)

At first glance, these don't seem like the ideal candidates for the job.

Peter:

- refused to let Jesus wash his feet along with the rest of the disciples (John 13:1-9).
- told Jesus He was wrong when He predicted Peter would deny Him (Matt. 26:33-35).
- Peter did deny Jesus three times (Matt. 26:69-75)

Paul:

- made havoc of the church (Acts 8:3).
- assisted in the martyrdom of Stephen by watching the mob's coats (Acts 7:58).
- was a terrorist.

But God loves to use people who may seem like they're the least likely person to be used by Him in ministry...

- Moses was a murderer.
- Gideon was scared.
- Joseph was a spoiled brat.
- Jacob was a liar.

- David was an adulterer.

...but God had very different plans for all of them.

**Acts 9:1-2** “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

**Acts 9:3-6** As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

This theme of redemption was one that Paul never lost sight of.

**I Cor. 15:9-10** “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was in me.”

#### **I Timothy 1:12-17**

When Paul speaks of his conversion, he doesn't talk about what He did to earn his salvation on his own. Rather, he gives all the glory to God:

**1:13** “... but I obtained mercy...”

**1:14** “And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant...”

**1:16** “... I obtained mercy...”

And in the power of the Holy Spirit they were to take this message to...

- Jerusalem
- Judea, Samaria
- the ends of the Earth

#### **“The Word of God is unstoppable.”**

**Acts 2:41** Then those who gladly **received his word were baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to *them*.

**Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, **and they spoke the word of God with boldness.**

- Acts 6:7 **Then the word of God spread**, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.
- Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that **Samaria had received the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them...
- Acts 11:1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that **the Gentiles had also received the word of God**.
- Acts 12:24 But **the word of God grew and multiplied**.
- Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. **And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed**.