

## ACTS: GOD'S WAY WINS EVERY TIME

03.14.21 GC Acts 5:34-42 trusting God's plan for our life 30 min

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. **William Ernest Henley** author of "Invictus". He was wrong. (A-1)
- B. [Relv] We often wonder, "who is actually in control?" Not us. [title]
- C. **Is 46:10**, 'I declare how things turn out long before they happen.'
- D. [Theme] **The plans of God cannot be overthrown**. Calls for faith
- E. [Struct/psg] **Acts 5:34-42**: 3 truths and how we respond like A's
  - a. Sanhedrin is ready to kill the apostles and then God steps in...
  - I. **God defends His people** (vv. 33-35)
    - a. Txt: God used Gamaliel to protect His people (vv. 33-35)
    - b. God is looking out for His people, always. (**Ps 121:7**) (A-3)
      - i. God will protect us, but it may not mean that He saves us. P for righteousness's sake (**Matt 5:10**) (A-4)
      - ii. What we do with fear is what matters most to God.
    - c. **Types of Fear We are Accountable to God for**: (A-5)
      - i. **Wrong attitude fears**: Worry, Intimidation, Timidity, Cowardice, Panic.
      - ii. **Right attitude fears**: Awe, Respect, Concern, Caution, etc.
  - d. God defends His people, but His people must trust heart even when they can't see His hand.

### II. **God defends His plans** (vv. 36-39)

- a. Txt: **The plans of God do not disperse or fade**. God always finishes what he started, especially related to His Son. (v. 39)
  - i. CR: **Proverbs 21:30**, "no wisdom...no insight... no **plan** that can succeed (AVAIL) against the **LORD**".
- b. **Qs to consider if you are pleasing God or pleasing man** (A-5)
- c. App: You are either for God or against God; no middle grnd

### III. **God defends His purposes** (vv. 40-42)

- a. Even though 'Flogged' ... 'rejoiced' & 'did not cease teaching'
- b. **Ps 33:10-11**, 'Plans... purposes of His heart... forever' (A-6)
- c. When in God's purpose, we will experience supernatural joy.
  - i. **Richard Wurmbrand, Romanian Prisoner** (A-7)
- d. We must not count our personal comfort or security as more important than God's Mission.

### CONCLUSION (this week I will...):

- A. **Insert a filter in your thinking**: does this action please the Lord?
  - a. **John Piper Quote** (A-8)
- B. **Spend time expressing your fears to God** and His ability to take care of them. | Repent of wrong attitudes fears, embrace right ...
- C. **Be bold about sharing the Gospel** with someone else this week.

## APPENDIX:

**A-1:** Poet **William Ernest Henley** (1849–1903) penned the words of his immortal *Invictus* (unconquered in Latin) after years of painful tuberculosis (TB) infection of his bones, eventually losing his leg to the disease.

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**A-2:** Isaiah 46:10, “... for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done...”

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**A-3:** Psalm 121:7–8, The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

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**A-4:** Matthew 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (ESV)

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### **A-5: Questions to consider if you are pleasing God or pleasing man:**

1. When another person doesn’t notice my effort, will that disappoint me?
2. Whose approval fills my mind and influences my motives on a daily basis?
3. How would I act if all that mattered to me was who I am in Christ?
4. If no one by God sees the outcome, will I still be satisfied?
5. Is my desire for Earthly comfort and security keeping me from obedience to God?

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A-6: Psalm 33:10–11, “The **Lord** foils **the plans** of the nations [the wicked]; He thwarts the purposes of the [wicked] peoples. But **the plans** of the **Lord** stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations” (NIV)

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### **A-7: Richard Wurmbrand, Romanian Prisoner**

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#### **A-8: John Piper Quote:**

“The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or which car to drive, or whether to own a home, where you take your vacation, what cell-phone plan to buy, or which brand of orange juice to drink. Or a thousand other choices you must make. **What is necessary is that we have a renewed mind, that is so shaped and so governed by the revealed will of God in the Bible, that we see and assess all relevant factors with the mind of Christ, and discern what God is calling us to do.**<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Tim Clinton, Chap Clark, and Joshua Straub, *The Quick-Reference Guide to Counseling Teenagers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2010), 155.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-pleases-God.html>