

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church**  
**We're glad you're here!**



# The Old Rugged Cross

## Hymn 256



# Are You Washed in the Blood

## Hymn 259





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Corinthians 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“There is not an angel before the throne who can believe such great things of God as you can. An angel has no sin. He cannot, therefore, believe that Jesus can put away his sins. But you can.*”

***Charles H. Spurgeon***



# Today's Message

## “Before the Rulers”

*A Test, in which they passed. What about you?  
How would you fare?*

**Scripture text: Acts 4:1-22**

This Morning we will pick up this story with Peter and John before the Council. Their crime, preaching in the name of Jesus Christ, their action – healing a beggar who was born lame and setting a the beautiful gate of the Temple. (See Acts 3 for details)

**Act 4:13-14** Now **when they saw the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, **they had nothing to say in opposition.**

**Their problem** (vv. 13–14). They were in a dilemma; no matter which way they turned, they were “trapped.” They could not deny the miracle, because the man was standing before them; and yet they could not explain how “**uneducated and untrained men**” (nasb) could perform such a mighty deed. Peter and John were ordinary fishermen, **not professional scribes or authorized ministers of the Jewish religion**. They were disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, but—He was dead! **The council took notice of the courage and confidence** of Peter and John, as well as the power of Peter’s words; and it all added up to perplexity.

**It is important to note that, of itself, the miracle was not proof of the resurrection of Christ or even of the truth of Peter's message.** Satan can perform miracles (2 Thes. 2:9–10) and false prophets can do wonders (Deut. 13:1–5). The miracle and the message, in the context of all that had been going on since Pentecost, was one more evidence that Jesus Christ was alive and at work in the church by His Holy Spirit. In both sermons, Peter used the Old Testament to support and explain his claims, and this is one evidence of a true prophet of God (Deut. 13:1–5; Isa. 8:20).

**Miracles are not a substitute for the Word of God** (Luke 16:27–31).

**2 Thessalonians 2:7-12** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan **with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** Therefore God sends them a **strong delusion**, so that **they may believe what is false**, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4** "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you **and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder** that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, '**Let us go after other gods,**' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.** For the **LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.** You shall walk after the **LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.**

**Deuteronomy 13:5** But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams **shall be put to death**, because he has **taught rebellion against the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. **So you shall purge the evil from your midst.**

**Isaiah 8:20** To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

**Luke 16:27-31** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers--so that he may warn them, **lest they also come into this place of torment.**' But Abraham said, **'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'** And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but **if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.**' He said to him, **'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"**

**How TRUE this is, even TODAY!**

**Their deliberation** (vv. 15–18). The council did not seek for truth, but rather **sought for some way to avoid the truth!** Had they honestly considered the evidence and meekly listened to the message, **they might have been saved, but their pride and hardness of heart stood in the way.** Some of the chief priests and elders had experienced a similar dilemma during Passover when they had tried to trap Jesus in the temple (Matt. 21:23–27). **Some people never learn!** But **their response is proof that miracles alone can never convict or convert the lost sinner. Only the Word of God can do that** (see John 11:45–53; Acts 14:1–20).

# Holy Communion



# **The Family of God**

**I'm so glad to be part of the family of God**

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by  
His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod**

**For I'm part of the family, the family of God.**