

# PREFERENCE OR CONVICTION?

Acts Chapters 3 - 5

- Acts 4:18-21 - *18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; 20 for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard. " 21 And when they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which they might punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened...*
- Acts 4:18–21 (LBLA) — *18 Cuando los llamaron, les ordenaron no hablar ni enseñar en el nombre de Jesús. 19 Mas respondiendo Pedro y Juan, les dijeron: Vosotros mismos juzgad si es justo delante de Dios obedecer a vosotros antes que a Dios; 20 porque nosotros no podemos dejar de decir lo que hemos visto y oído. 21 Y ellos, después de amenazarlos otra vez, los dejaron ir (no hallando la manera de castigarlos) por causa del pueblo, porque todos glorificaban a Dios por lo que había acontecido;*

- Acts 5: 17-21 - 17 - *But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy; 18 and they laid hands on the apostles, and put them in a public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, 20 "Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." 21 And upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak, and began to teach.*
- Acts 5:17–21 (LBLA) — *17 Pero levantándose el sumo sacerdote, y todos los que estaban con él (es decir, la secta de los saduceos), se llenaron de celo, 18 y echaron mano a los apóstoles y los pusieron en una cárcel pública. 19 Pero un ángel del Señor, durante la noche, abrió las puertas de la cárcel, y sacándolos, dijo: 20 Id, y puestos de pie en el templo, hablad al pueblo todo el mensaje de esta Vida. 21 Habiendo oído esto, entraron al amanecer en el templo y enseñaban. Cuando llegaron el sumo sacerdote y los que estaban con él, convocaron al concilio, es decir, a todo el senado de los hijos de Israel, y enviaron órdenes a la cárcel para que los trajeran.*

- *Verses 21-28 – “Now when the high priest and his associates had come, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought. 22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned, and reported back, 23 saying, ‘We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside.’ 24 Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this. 25 But someone came and reported to them, ‘Behold, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!’”*
- *Acts 5:21–28 (LBLA) — 21 Habiendo oído esto, entraron al amanecer en el templo y enseñaban. Cuando llegaron el sumo sacerdote y los que estaban con él, convocaron al concilio, es decir, a todo el senado de los hijos de Israel, y enviaron órdenes a la cárcel para que los trajeran. 22 Pero los alguaciles que fueron no los encontraron en la cárcel; volvieron, pues, e informaron, 23 diciendo: Encontramos la cárcel cerrada con toda seguridad y los guardias de pie a las puertas; pero cuando abrimos, a nadie hallamos dentro. 24 Cuando oyeron estas palabras el capitán de la guardia del templo y los principales sacerdotes, se quedaron muy perplejos a causa de ellos, pensando en qué terminaría aquello. 25 Pero alguien se presentó y les informó: Mirad, los hombres que pusisteis en la cárcel están en el templo enseñando al pueblo.*

- *26 Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, lest they should be stoned). 27 And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

- *26 Entonces el capitán fue con los alguaciles y los trajo sin violencia (porque temían al pueblo, no fuera que los apedrearán). 27 Cuando los trajeron los pusieron ante el concilio, y el sumo sacerdote los interrogó, 28 diciendo: Os dimos órdenes estrictas de no continuar enseñando en este nombre, y he aquí, habéis llenado a Jerusalén con vuestras enseñanzas, y queréis traer sobre nosotros la sangre de este hombre.*

*29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men.*

*29— 29 Mas respondiendo Pedro y los apóstoles, dijeron: Debemos obedecer a Dios antes que a los hombres.*

- Acts 5: 41-42 - *41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*
- Acts 5:41–42 (LBLA) — *41 Ellos, pues, salieron de la presencia del concilio, regocijándose de que hubieran sido tenidos por dignos de padecer afrenta por su Nombre. 42 Y todos los días, en el templo y de casa en casa, no cesaban de enseñar y predicar a Jesús como el Cristo.*

*"I would rather lie in the silent grave,  
remembered by both friends and  
enemies as one who remained true  
to his faith and who never faltered  
in what he believed to be his duty,  
than to still live, old and aged,  
lacking the confidence of both  
factions."*



- Daniel 3:16-18 – “*Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 " If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 " But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.*”
- Daniel 3:16–18 (LBLA) — *16 Sadrac, Mesac y Abed-nego respondieron y dijeron al rey Nabucodonosor: No necesitamos darte una respuesta acerca de este asunto. 17 Ciertamente nuestro Dios a quien servimos puede librarnos del horno de fuego ardiente; y de tu mano, oh rey, nos librará. 18 Pero si no lo hace, has de saber, oh rey, que no serviremos a tus dioses ni adoraremos la estatua de oro que has levantado.*

Revelation 21:8 –

*But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*

Revelation 21:8 —

*8 Pero los cobardes, incrédulos, abominables, asesinos, inmorales, hechiceros, idólatras y todos los mentirosos tendrán su herencia en el lago que arde con fuego y azufre, que es la muerte segunda.*

**These Were Men of Conviction.**

**Verse 29 says, "*We must obey God rather than men.*"**

- The United States Supreme Court has ruled that there is a difference between a conviction and a preference. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, a preference is a very strong belief, held with great strength. You can give your entire life in a full-time way to the service of the preference, and can also give your entire material wealth in the name of the same. You can energetically proselytize others to your preference. You can also teach this belief to your children, and the Supreme Court may still rule that it is a preference and not a conviction. A preference is a strong belief, but a belief that you will change under the right or wrong circumstances - such as peer pressure, family pressure, lawsuits, jail, threat of torture or death, financial gain, etc.

- A **conviction** is a belief that you will not change. Why? Because you believe that God requires it of you. Preferences aren't protected by the U.S. Constitution. **Convictions are.** A conviction is not something that you fall into. It is something that you purpose in your heart. A conviction on the inside will always show up on the outside, in your lifestyle. A conviction is something that if you violate it, it would be a sin.

Romans 14:23

*...and whatever is not of  
faith is sin.*

Romans 14:23

*...y todo lo que no procede  
de fe, es pecado.*

Matthew 6:33 –

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33—

*Pero buscad primero su reino y su justicia, y todas estas cosas os serán añadidas.*

- Hebrews 9:27 (NIV) *27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment ...*
- Hebrews 9:27 (LBLA) — *27 Y así como está decretado que los hombres mueran una sola vez, y después de esto, el juicio,*



- 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV) *10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 (LBLA) — *10 Porque todos nosotros debemos comparecer ante el tribunal de Cristo, para que cada uno sea recompensado por sus hechos estando en el cuerpo, de acuerdo con lo que hizo, sea bueno o sea malo.*

1 John 2:3-4 –

*By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;*

1 John 2:3–4 —

*3 Y en esto sabemos que hemos llegado a conocerle: si guardamos sus mandamientos. 4 El que dice: Yo he llegado a conocerle, y no guarda sus mandamientos, es un mentiroso y la verdad no está en él;*