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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." — PSALM CXXXVII. 5.

APOSTOLIC STUDIES, ON THE PRIMITIVE OR INFANT CHURCH OF CHRIST.

(11.) PERSECUTION RENEWED: Acts 5: 12-42.

AFTER the awful death and quick burial of Ananias and Sapphira, (the name of the former signifying "the grace of the Lord," agreeing very ill with his conduct,) the Apostles worked many miracles, and the Church was so increased by multitudes, both of men and women, added to the Lord, that the Rulers became envious and caused them to be again seized and placed in the common prison.

The Angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night, and set them free; thus shewing the Apostles that they were under the care of their Heavenly Father, and to convince their enemies that in persecuting them they were fighting against God. The Angel told them to go and preach in the Temple all the words of this life: *i. e.*, all the doctrines of the Gospel—the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and the whole way of salvation from sin and hell. The Apostles early in the morning obeyed and taught.

When the Council met, they were astonished to find that their prisoner had escaped, and more surprised when told that they were then in the Temple teaching the people. The officers were then sent to seize them, and they were brought again before court, but without violence.

The High Priest then asked them why they had disobeyed his commands, and why they wanted to bring Christ's blood upon them.

Peter then reiterated (as in Acts 4: 19, 20) that they ought to obey God rather than men; and he boldly charged them with crucifying Jesus, an innocent man, whom the God of their fathers had raised up to be a Prince and a Saviour, and of whom they, the Apostles, were witnesses, and so was also the Holy Ghost.

The Council were confounded and sought to slay them. A Pharisee named Gamaliel, an LL.D. or Doctor of the Law (who was St Paul's teacher,) then gave them prudent advice, that if this work be of men it will come to nought, as was the case with others; but if it be of God, they cannot overthrow it, lest haply they be found even to fight against God. The Council agreed to this reasoning, not to slay the Apostles; and, finding it were of no use to imprison them, and yet being filled with malevolence against them, they scourged them, and, after commanding them not to speak in the name of Jesus, they let them go.

The Apostles rejoiced in their persecution, and continued daily to teach and to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, in the Temple and in every house.

What God commands all should obey, though men forbid and persecute.

(12.) DEACONS CHOSEN: Acts 6: 1-15.

Before entering upon this interesting chapter, three things may be noticed: First, that the Apostles improved the season of quiet enjoyed for nearly two years of freedom from persecution, by preaching daily everywhere in Jerusalem, and by seeing multitudes, and even a great company of the very Priests themselves, becoming obedient to the faith. Second, that the generous dispensation of charity was con-