

A Survey of the Book of Acts (Part 3a):
The First Thirty Years of the Church of Jesus Christ
Associate Minister's Class

11-28-15

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INTRODUCTION: The Book of Acts, the only book of history in the New Testament, chronicles the most crucial three decades of church history. Acts presents several themes, which provide important lessons for the church today. They include:

- A pattern for church growth
- Church problems and solutions
- Missionary strategy
- The place of the Holy Spirit in church life, and the life of a believer
- An emphasis on evangelism

I. Review

- a. Careful study of Acts presents to us a clear picture of the ancient church, so that we can better understand the purpose, plan, and function of the modern church.
- b. We have divided Acts into three sections, in order that we might follow the “flow” of church growth in the first 30 years.
- c. These divisions are based on a logical order, founded on Jesus’ charge to the Apostles in Acts 1:8.
- d. Acts provides many important purposes.

II. Third Division: Acts 14-28 (“The Uttermost Part of the Earth”)

III. The Conclusion of Paul’s First Missionary Journey (Acts 14)

- a. The People’s Response to the Impotent Man’s Healing
- b. The Apostle’s Response to Being Called Gods

IV. The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35)

- a. The Point of Contention
- b. The Decision of the Council
- c. The Benefit of Debate

- V. Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins (Acts 15:36-40)
 - a. The Purpose of The Second Journey
 - b. The Evangelist's Divide
- VI. The Ministry of Paul and Silas (Acts 16)
 - a. Timothy is Circumcised
 - b. The Macedonian Call
 - c. Miracle at Midnight
- VII. Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens (Acts 17)
 - a. The Apostle's "Turn the World Upside Down"
 - b. The Truth-Seeking Bereans
 - c. Paul's Sermon to the Gentile Philosophers
- VIII. Paul's Second Missionary Journey Ends, and His Third Missionary Journey Begins (Acts 18)
 - a. The Corinthian Church is Established
 - b. Paul Returns to Jerusalem and Antioch
 - c. Apollos is Instructed by Aquila and Priscilla
- IX. Paul Returns to Asia (Acts 19)
 - a. The Ephesian's Receive the Holy Spirit
 - b. Demons Wound the Vagabond Jews
 - c. Demetrius Causes a Riot