

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

5-28-16

Facilitator: Reverend Kirby Jones, Second Vice-Moderator

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. Paul before Festus (Acts 25)

- a. Festus pays a State visit to Jerusalem, where the Jews tell him of a certain prisoner (Paul) in jail in Caesarea
- b. The Jews request that Festus extradite Paul back to Jerusalem, in order to ambush him during the journey
- c. Paul appeals his case to Caesar
- d. King Agrippa and his wife Bernice, visit Felix

IV. Paul appears before Agrippa and Bernice (Acts 26)

- a. Paul’s presents the Monarch’s with the Gospel
- b. Paul gives his testimony
- c. King Agrippa is “almost” converted

- V. Paul's journey to Rome (Acts 27)
 - a. Paul encounters danger on the sea
 - b. Paul comforts others in the storm
 - c. Paul is shipwrecked on the island of Malta (Melita)

- VI. Paul in Rome (Acts 28)
 - a. Paul is bitten by a viper
 - b. Paul prays for Publius' father
 - c. Paul minister's from prison
 - d. The final acts of Paul