

Acts of the Apostles (The Holy Spirit)

GTW – September 9, 2020 – Dr. C. Patrick Hartsock

Introduction

Author: Both the Gospel of Luke and Acts are attributed to Dr. Luke, noted as a physician in Colossians 4:14.

- Luke was a close companion of Paul's as seen in Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 24.
- Luke's thorough knowledge of the Old Testament indicates he was either a "God fearer," a Greek who attended the Jewish Synagogue, or he was a Jewish proselyte (a convert to Judaism), or possibly he gained this knowledge after becoming a Christian.

Date: Some scholars date Acts around 70AD. I prefer an earlier date of 62AD since the abrupt ending of the book does not contain any information about Paul's death, Peter's death, therefore, the earlier date would seem more likely.

Formal Recipient: Luke wrote Acts and the Gospel of Luke to Theophilus

- "In my former book, **Theophilus**, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach..." Acts 1:1
- "...since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, **most excellent Theophilus**,⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." Luke 1:3-4

"Theophilus" – Name means "one who loves God;" probably a Roman official of high position and wealth, since addressed as "most excellent Theophilus."

Table Sharing: If you were to write a letter about your walk with, and life in Jesus Christ, to whom would you write? What would you share?

Outline of the First Fourteen Chapters of the Letter

The Preparation of the Apostles for the coming church

- 1:1-26 Preparation for Pentecost
 - 1:1-11 – Jesus’ Post Resurrection Appearances and Ascension
 - 1:8 – Jesus’ Charge to the Church
 - 1:12-26 – Waiting for the Holy Spirit & The Election of Matthias

The Church and it’s Birth

- 2:1-41 Pentecost
 - 2:1-13 – The Holy Spirit Births the Church
 - 2:1-4 – Filled with the Spirit and began Speaking with other tongues
 - 2:5-13 – Tongues given to witness to pilgrims at Jerusalem
 - 2:14-41 – Peter’s Speech
 - 2:14-21 – Gift of the Holy Spirit Prophesied
 - 2:22-36 – Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Proclaimed
 - 2:37-41 – Convictions and Conversion

The Church and it’s life

- 2:42-47 – Life in the Early Church
 - 2:42 – The Four-fold Reality of the Early Church
 - 2:43-47 – The Common and Worship Life of the Church

The Church and It’s Growth

- 3:1-4:31 A Healing Miracle and The Outbreak of Persecution
 - 3:1-10 – The Healing of the Crippled Beggar

Table sharing – Have you experienced the Lord’s healing in your life or the life of a friend or relative? What happened and how did you or they respond?

Have you experienced God not healing a friend or loved one in your life? What happened and how did you respond?

3:11-26 – Peter’s Speech at Solomon’s Porch

4:1-22 – Temple Arrest; Council Brings Apostles to Trial and Release

4:23-31 – Church’s Prayer for Boldness

The Church and it’s Common Life

- 4:32- 5:11 The Common Life of the Church

4:32-37 – The Positive Common Life of The Church

5:1-11 – The Negative Common Life of the Church – Ananias & Sapphira

The Apostle’s Healing Ministry and its Consequences

- The Apostle’s Healing Ministry 5:12-42

5:12-16 – The Apostle’s Healing Ministry

5:17-42 – The Consequences of the Healing Ministry

The Hellenistic Jewish Christians

- The Church’s Growth Problems and Promise 6:1-8:40

6:1-7 – The Appointing of Deacons in the Church

6:8-15 – Stephen’s Witness and Arrest

7:1-53 – Stephen’s Speech

7:54 – 8:3 – Stephen’s Martyrdom

8:4-25 – Samaritans Respond to the Gospel

8:26 – 40 – Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Saul’s Conversion and Early Ministry

- Saul Called by the Lord 9:1-31

9:1-19 – Paul’s Conversion

Table Sharing: Have you ever experienced someone who you thought would never do it, commit their lives to Christ? Can you share some of the specifics; the why of your negative expectations; and the reality of their conversion?

9:19-31 – Paul’s Witness in Damascus and Jerusalem

The Early Church and Its Mission to the Gentiles

- The Holy Spirit's Critical Expansion of the Church 9:32-12:25

9:32- 11:18 – The Mission Begun Through Peter

9:32- 43 – Peter's Healing Ministry at Lydda and Joppa

10:1-8 – Cornelius's Vision

10:9-23 – Peter's Vision

Table Sharing: Has God ever called you to reach out to a person, or a people, beyond your comfort zone? How did you respond to the Lord's nudging?

10:23-48 – Peter's Witness to Cornelius

11:1-18 – Peter's Defense of His Gentile Mission

11:19-12:25 – The Church's Mission Faces Opposition

11:19-30 – The Gentile Mission at Antioch

12:1-25 – Herod's Opposition to the Church

The Church Expands to All Nations: Paul's Missionary Journey

- The Missionary Journey of Paul 13:1-14:28

13:1-14:28 – The First Missionary Journey

13:1-3 – Commissioning of Paul and Barnabas

13:4-12 – Outreach to Cyprus

13:13-52 – Outreach to Antioch and Pisidia

14:1-7 – Outreach to Iconium

14:8-18 – Outreach to Lystra

14:19-20 – The Stoning and Healing of Paul

14:21-23 – Returning to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch to strengthen believers

14:24-28 – Outreach to Perga, Attalia, and Returning to Antioch

Class Sharing: Since the gospel is still expanding, share how, when and where you have seen the greatest outreach to unbelievers by your church corporately, and by you personally?