

The Bible Companion Series

# Christianity in Action

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## The Acts of the Apostles

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

The Bible Companion Series of Bible Studies

These Study Notes Belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

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***A Note Concerning the Cork Bible Institute***

*This study course is intended to be used in conjunction with the Cork Bible Institute and contains a Final Exam that can be applied towards credit in the Institute. If you want your participation in this course to be part of an overall course accreditation, please inform Pastor Ledbetter and he will make sure your records are retained. Your attendance will be recorded, and there will be a class project for you to complete by the end of the ten week course.*

***Class Project:***

*To pass this course, you will need to complete two reports:*

- 1) A Report giving a brief description of every person in the Book of Acts, and*
- 2) A basic outline, briefly describing every chapter of the Book.*

# The Acts of the Apostles

## Study Introduction

### I. Preliminary Information

#### A. The Title of the Book - *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Apostles*

1. Describes *An \_\_\_\_\_ Account* - Not primarily *doctrinal* in nature, but a record of the lives of real people who lived out what they believed, under real circumstances.
2. Describes *An \_\_\_\_\_ Account* - Actual names and places of verifiable facts. Not like Joseph Smith's "Book of Mormon" with is non-historical!!! This Book in type will match the character of the Book of Joshua, which too is an historical account of God's people possessing their inheritance.
3. Describes *An \_\_\_\_\_ Account* - The book is written in the Present Tense. In other words, these acts are on-going in the lives of Christians today! Christianity did not end at the close of the 28th chapter! Christianity continues to spread, and build upon the foundation laid here in this Book (Eph 2:19-22)

#### B. The Author: \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 1:1; Acts 1:10)

1. The ultimate Author is \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 2:15)
2. As far as the human "\_\_\_\_\_" was, compare Scripture with Scripture Acts 1:1,2 with Luke 1:1,2.
3. Luke, the beloved physician (Col 4:14), was a Jew, not a Gentile as many believe. Reason: because Romans 3:2 states that the "oracles of God" (Scriptures) are given to the \_\_\_\_\_, and NO Gentile is used to write any Jewish Scripture!

#### C. The Date of Its Writing: About \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

1. Acts 28 records that the Apostle Paul was not dead at the completion of the Book of the Acts, so it has to be dated before his death which was in 65 AD
2. It is well known that Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, and the Acts does not record that either, so it was written before that event as well.

#### D. The Intended Audience -

1. *O Theophilus!* \_\_\_\_\_ of God! The Bible has always been written primarily for God's people, and not for the atheist or agnostic! It is written from the standpoint of the believer with few exceptions which are directed at the skeptic. Did you ever notice that the Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God?
2. Did you notice that Luke is not attempting to re-write, or update his former treatise, but rather continuing on in its account of God's hand in their lives. Luke's first treatise was written under the inspiration of God (2 Tim 3:16). Luke knew that no one could improve God's inspiration!

#### E. Its Importance and Significance

1. The Book of Acts puts "\_\_\_\_\_" to faith. God's truth **changes** a life (2 Cor 5:17), not just a mind, or even just a heart, and Acts shows how the lives of people all over the world were changed by the preaching of the gospel. Acts is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel!
2. The Book of Acts records what it took the apostles and early disciples to lay the foundation for the rest of us to get saved.
3. It places in the hand of the Christian a verifiable record of the events and truths of Christianity so that they may know with "\_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 1:4) that it is of God, and God alone!

#### F. The Theme - always Jesus Christ (1:1; Acts 28:31)

1. The Book of Luke covered the life of Jesus Christ, His "passion," and his resurrection.
2. The Book of Acts will cover the life that Jesus Christ lives \_\_\_\_\_ his disciples until His return for them in the clouds!

#### G. Its Placement in the Bible

1. Acts is a **continuation** of a former \_\_\_\_\_ (in-depth discourse) - *The Gospel According to Luke*.
2. Acts provides a practical **connection** with the doctrinal Books that follow it. The doctrinal Books (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, etc.), are principles, and statements that need *lives* attached to them before they can be transferred to another life.

### II. Our Approach to the Study of the Bible

- A. We take the Bible as primarily \_\_\_\_\_ and authoritative (John 17:17)
- B. We prefer to study the Bible in an outline form - identifying the various subjects and conclusions made by the Book on a chapter by chapter basis - studying it bit by bit (Isa 28:10).
- C. We believe the King James Bible in its entirety, and waste no time attempting to find errors or mistakes in it - rather we wish to live it!

### III. Some Practical Information

A. **A Simple Outline of Acts** - This Book is divided up in several ways:

1. By Nationalities (Romans 1:16)
  - a. To the \_\_\_ First (Acts 1-12)
  - b. And to the Greek (Acts 13-28)
2. By Geographical Region (Acts 1:8)
  - a. In Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)
  - b. Judaea (Acts 8)
  - c. Samaria (Acts 8)
  - d. Uttermost Parts of the earth (Acts 9-28)
3. By Personalities
  - a. Acts of the Apostles
  - b. Acts of their Disciples
  - c. Acts of the Holy Spirit
  - d. Acts of the world - its religions, philosophers, etc.
4. By a General Sequence of Events - This is how we will study through the Book

B. **Some Things to know about when studying this Book**

1. This Book is An \_\_\_\_\_ Book - Christianity is not just a “faith” but the living of that faith, out in the open, not in a closet!
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ Book
  - a. Just like Salvation involves a transition from darkness into His marvelous light (2 Pet 2:9), so the Book of Acts records the transition of world history from dark religion, to the marvelous light of Bible Christianity.
  - b. There are three "transitional" Books in the New Testament:
    - 1) *Matthew*- Transition from the Old Testament to the New
    - 2) *Acts* - Transition from an emphasis being placed upon the Jews, to the \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) *Hebrews*- Transition from the \_\_\_\_\_, to the "last days"
  - c. Every major *heresy* comes from people referring to obscure passages in one of these three Books, and building subsequent doctrines on them.

C. **Some of the subjects this Book will deal with:**

1. Once a person is saved, what to expect next – what are the steps to Christian maturity, and what troubles should every Christian expect to come into their lives now that they are saved
2. The empowerment and mobilization of the New Testament church for a greater purpose than just their enjoyment!
3. The various methods of soul-winning
4. The extent of soul-winning - World Wide Evangelism
5. How the New Testament church functions in the world
6. The simplicity of New Testament worship!
7. Salvation by the grace of God through faith *alone*
8. The following heresies and confusions will be dealt with:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ - The belief that a person is “\_\_\_\_\_” (pre-chosen) to salvation, or “elected” to damnation by God.
  - b. **Pentecostalism**/Charismaticism - The belief that \_\_\_ the spiritual gifts are for today; the belief that a person can lose their salvation
  - c. **Lordship Salvation** - that a person is not really saved unless they have everything under control at the point of salvation - basically the belief in \_\_\_\_\_ perfection AT salvation
  - d. **Baptismal Regeneration** - the belief that \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of a person’s salvation
  - e. Judaism - **Legalism** - the belief that every Christian must keep the “\_\_\_\_\_” in order to really be a true Christian, and keep saved
  - f. And a few more!

### IV. Conclusion