

The  
**ACTS**  
of The  
APOSTLES

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**WITNESSING**

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JOHN G. MITCHELL  
UNCHANGING WORD BIBLE BROADCAST

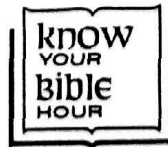
# ACTS

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Multnomah Press  
10209 S.E. Division  
Portland, Oregon 97266

One of the "Know  
Your Bible Hour" Outlines



Unchanging Word Bible Broadcast

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INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts is a much misunderstood book. It was not given to teach doctrine, but to record the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church of Christ from Jerusalem to Rome.

Dr. Griffith Thomas has given the following brief note:

"The Gospels - manifesting the  
Person of Christ.

The Acts - recording the preaching  
of Christ.

The Epistles - instructing the  
Church of Christ.

The Revelation - displaying the  
providence of Christ."

The writer is Luke. Cp. Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3. Acts is the continuation of Luke's gospel.

The purpose - to reveal the work of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, through the church.

Here we see,

"The Divine principle of revival  
and missionary work.

The Divine pattern for church  
government and life.

The Divine method for church  
expansion."

--Griffith Thomas

The theme - the church witnessing for Christ.  
Cp. 1:8.

Two men stand out in the book - Peter and Paul.

Peter was called to witness to the Jews cp. Gal. 2:7-8. We see this in cs. 1-12. All he knew was Jewish culture. Paul was called to witness to the Gentiles, cs. 13-28. He was well versed in both Jewish and Greek culture.

The witness starts in Jerusalem, ch. 2 and ends in Rome, ch. 28.

(Note the movement of the Spirit of God in His witness of our Saviour from Jerusalem to Rome).



I. WITNESSING IN JERUSALEM 1:1 - 8:4A. The Ascension of our Lord ch 11. Introduction 1-3

Note: Luke ends where Acts starts - with the resurrection and ascension of our Lord.

"Many infallible proofs" - the absolute certainty of His resurrection transformed these men into flaming evangelists of a risen Christ. They knew their Lord had conquered death and was exalted to be Lord and Christ. Hence - all through Acts, the Risen Lord was their theme.

2. His final words 1:4-8

The promise of the Father - hence commanded to stay, cp. Luke 24:29. He commissioned them to be witnesses, vs. 8.

Here we have His plan of operation - How?

Who were to witness.

How they were to witness.

Of whom they were to witness;

where they were to witness.

3. The Ascension 9-12 This was just as real as the resurrection.

They had seen Him on a cross, in a tomb, risen, now going up into heaven, cp. Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2. He must be enthroned before they can receive the Holy Spirit, cp. John 7:37-39, John 14:17-26, 15:26, 16:7, etc.

The Promise of His return 10-11 "This same Jesus" Cp. Rev. 1:7; Dan. 7:13 (cp. Matthew 26:63-64).

4. The Obedience of the disciples 13-26  
They were told to wait, where they were to wait, and how long they were to wait. While waiting - all continued with one accord, in one place, praying, and fellowshiping together and waited for the Promise of the Father.

B. Pentecost cp. 2 The coming of the Spirit to form one body - the church. (Calvary - then Resurrection - then Pentecost - never repeated).

1. Receiving the Spirit 2:1-4 The union of all believers. God did a new thing - baptized them into the body of Christ. This was an act of God cp. I Cor. 12:13; Acts 1:5.  
They were all filled with the Spirit vs. 4. Note how He came; upon whom He came; and what they did. All of them witnessed - spoke in tongues, languages that were understood.

There has been and still is much confusion regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the believer. These few thoughts may help you to understand what the Scriptures say, especially about speaking in tongues. The following are the places where it is mentioned in the Bible:

Isa. 28:9-15; Acts 2:1-11; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; I Cor. 12 & 14. (Mark 16:15-18 a general statement).

It is to be noticed that the first and the last mention of tongues is the same, cp. Isa. 28:11-12 and I Cor. 14:21-23.

The nation Israel was chosen by God to be a witness to the nations of the oneness of God. They were redeemed out of Egypt and brought into the land of Palestine to do this ministry. However, their history is one of failure and in Isaiah 28 the prophet is declaring how far they had moved away from God. Why would He speak to them in other languages? Isaiah informs them why He would and why they would not listen, cp. 28:14-15 "Because you have said, 'We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.' "

In Acts 2 we see God speaking to Israel in other languages. In Acts 10 the Gentiles spoke in other tongues because of the unbelieving Jews present. Peter and the six men with him would never have believed the Holy Spirit and the gospel was for Gentiles if they had not had the same experience as they had at Pentecost.

In Acts 19 Paul met twelve men in the synagogue. These were Jews of the Diaspora and having heard the gospel they believed and received the Holy Spirit and prophesied, where? . . . in the synagogue.

Paul prophesied in I Thess. 2:16, "For the wrath of God is come upon them to the uttermost" and in 70 A.D. the Jewish people were scattered over the face of the earth. Ever since that time if a Jew wanted to hear God's good news, he heard them in another language, etc., so instead of Israel witnessing to the nations, the nations witness to Israel. For over 1900 years the Gentiles have been witnessing to the nations and Israel.

In I Cor. 14:21-23 it is to be noticed that tongues was used to reveal to the unbelieving Jew of the presence of God. Whereas in vs. 23 when the

whole church is come together, especially Gentiles, speaking in tongues was a sign of madness. Today if a Jew wants to hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, he will hear it in another language than Hebrew or Aramaic.

At our Lord's return Israel will again be in right relationship with the Saviour. Joel 2 will be fulfilled and they will be filled with the Spirit and become God's witnesses to the nations, cp. Isa. 43:1-13, 61:4-6.

2. The effect 5-13

What they heard - the wonderful works of God. How received - with amazement vs. 7, doubt vs. 12, mockery vs. 13, cp. Acts 17:22-34.

3. The first message of the Spirit to the world 14-36

a. The Explanation 14-21 cp. Joel 2:28-32 Peter used Joel 2 to explain the experience of Acts 2. (The important thing is not tongues but the receiving of the Holy Spirit).

b. The Message 22-24 The life-death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In his message he proved our Lord's Messiahship by His works, 22, His resurrection, 23-32 and by the coming of the Spirit 33-35.

c. The argument 25-31 Peter used Old Testament scripture. How did David know of Resurrection? Ps. 16:8-11, 17:15; Job 19:23-25 (Daniel 12:1-3).

d. The conclusion 32-35 Note the personal element. Peter preached for a verdict. He put the Jews in one camp and God in another camp.

- e. The appeal 36 You put Him on a cross - God raised Jesus and put Him on the throne--now, what will you do?
4. The result 37-41 The message had reached their conscience, hence, conviction.  
 "What shall we do?"  
The remedy given 38-39  
 "Repent" change your mind about Jesus, and about self. Cp. I Thess. 1:9-10; Acts 26:20; Job 42:5-6, etc.  
 "Be baptized" in the name of the One you crucified. Being joined to Him brings remission of sins.  
 Baptism reveals openly your union and trust in the one you crucified.  
The Promise 38-39 The Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Him.  
The result 3000 saved.  
 (When the law was given, 3000 were slain Ex. 32:28).
5. The Model Church 42-47  
 Its commencement 41, its continuance 42, its growth 43-47.  
 "It was an instructed, joyful, loving, growing, praying, worshipping church."
- C. Power in the Early Church Cs. 3-4
  1. Power to heal 3:1-11
    - a. The conditions 3:1-5  
 The man - born lame (cp. Rom. 5:6, 8:7-8; Ps. 51:5).  
 A beggar (Bankrupt - we were without righteousness (Is. 64:6; Rom. 3:10).  
Outside the temple - so near and yet so far cp. Eph. 2:13.
    - b. The remedy 6 Brought into relationship with the Saviour.



- c. The result 7-11 cp. II Cor. 5:17  
No longer a helpless beggar or outside the temple, but IN the temple, full of praise and worship.  
cp. Eph. 2:18; Isa. 35:6, etc.  
Note, verse 11 - Their amazement, and this fellow couldn't keep quiet - can we?

2. Power to witness 3:12--4:4

The miracle became the occasion for Peter's second message to Israel. The miracle - we didn't do it 3:12. Then WHO did it? Jesus, whom you killed.

- a. The message 12-18 Addressed to Israel.  
Christ Jesus the theme. The purpose? Their salvation.  
Note: the accusation. Peter shows the enormity of their sin.  
A six fold accusation: cs. 13-15 (note the titles here).  
"You did it ignorantly"  
cp. Luke 23:32; I Cor. 2:8;  
(Matt. 26:3-5; Mark 14:1-2).  
Peter again puts them in the opposite camp to God, He reminds them of what they did, and what God has done.
- b. The appeal 19-26 It is to the nation Israel. Repentance is urged. Charged with guilt, they are offered salvation, and forgiveness. Note the promises made if they repent and be converted. 19-26. Times of refreshing cp. Joel 2; Restitution of all things according to the prophets. He would send Jesus back to them. cp. Deut. 18:15-19.

(Our Lord will not return to the earth until a repentant Israel calls for Him. cp. Hosea 5:15--6:2; Matt. 23:38-39; Zech. 12:9--13:1).

- c. The Rejection 4:1-4 Here we have the first open opposition to the witness. The reason for the opposition 4:2 is Jesus and the resurrection.  
(Note: the disciples never tried to prove the resurrection, they boldly declared it).
3. The Reason for their boldness to witness 4:5-22
  - a. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit 5-8 Before the same group that delivered up Jesus to death. These were the rationalists of the day.
  - b. Peter's message 8-12  
The source of his power and authority - a risen Christ vs. 10.  
Their rejection vs. 11 cp. Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42. Yet he still pleads with them in vs. 12 cp. John 10:9; 14:6.
  - c. Their conviction 13-14  
Peter reminded them of Jesus vs. 13 (How about us?)  
(Christians, Spirit filled, should show forth the life of Jesus).  
Common people filled with the Spirit, now flaming, fearless witnesses for Jesus Christ. cp. Proverbs 28:1.

- d. Their unbelief 15-22  
cp. II Peter 3:5 willingly ignorant.  
They cannot deny the evidence, but  
they will not believe it and tried  
to hush it up. Cp. John 5:39-40.

- 4. The Prayer for boldness to witness  
4:23-37  
It starts with praise and worship 23-28.  
Then their request 29-30 and the answer  
31-33.  
Note: they did not pray to be filled  
with the Spirit, but they prayed for  
boldness to witness, and the result  
is vs. 33. Cp. Barnabas in vs. 36-37,  
11:22-26.

- D. Discipline in the early church 5:1-11  
(Internal troubles)  
The cause for the discipline vs. 1-4, 8,  
Deceit.  
The judgment - physical death 5, 10  
cp. I Cor. 5:1-5, 11:30; I Jno. 5:16-17.  
The result vs. 11. Fear upon all.

- E. Opposition to the early church 5:12-42  
(External opposition)

- 1. The reason for the opposition 12-16.  
The message accompanied with power  
and signs.
- 2. The result of the opposition 17-28.  
Peter and John are put in jail.  
Why be indignant when people are  
healed?  
Note: angelic ministry 19-20 and  
challenged to witness.

3. The testimony 29-32 The last testimony to the leaders of our Lord's death and resurrection and exaltation to be a Prince and a Saviour. Note their cooperation with the Spirit, vs. 32. Cp. 15:28.
  4. The advice of Gamaliel 33-40  
Advice because of uncertainty, yet they beat the apostles.  
Unbelief persisted in, produces hardness of heart. Unbelief is the product of an evil heart. Cp. Heb. 3:12-13.
  5. The result 41-42 The church rejoicing and bold in its witness.
- F. Organization in the Early Church 6:1-8  
The early church had its problems too. As the need arose, organization was affected.  
The reason - envy and jealousy started the trouble (cp. Prov. 14:30).  
Note: the people chose the seven men, and the apostles dedicated them.
1. The qualifications vs. 3 Men with a good testimony, full of wisdom, full of the Holy Spirit. (May the Lord give us such leaders today in the local assemblies).  
Note: all chosen were Hellenistic Jews, and hence were acceptable to the grieved ones.  
Here is the Lord preparing to send the gospel to the world. The apostles desire to be free to give out the Word, and to be free to spend time in prayer. This is the main responsibility of the Church of Christ.
  2. The result 7-8 Word of God increased - the church grew.

G. Martyrdom in the Early Church 6:9--8:41. Stephen taken and falsely accused  
6:9-15.

What he had 6:3, 5, 8, 7:55. Full of the Word and the Spirit.

The accusation - opposed to Moses  
cp. Ex. 34:29-35 and Acts 6:15.

Here we see God's vindication of His servant.

2. Stephen's Defense 7:1-53.

The longest message in the N.T. He starts with the God of Glory and ends with seeing Him in Glory. cp. Ps. 29:3; I Cor. 2:8; Ps. 24:7-10; Eph. 1:17. He follows through their history and the key vs. 51 "As your fathers did, so do ye."

His merciless logic drives them to frenzy.

They rejected Joseph, Moses, the prophets, now they reject the One of whom they wrote.

3. Stephen stoned 7:54--8:2 (cp. Deut. 13:1-5)

Note: his calmness and their rage - heaven opened - Son of Man standing - why? cp. Heb. 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2.

Note: his forgiveness cp. Luke 23:34, and heaven opens to receive him - it is always open for His people.

Out of Stephen comes Paul. (Cp. ch. 13 Paul's message greatly affected by the message of Stephen).

4. The Church scattered 8:3-4  
cp. Acts 11:19-21

They went everywhere gossiping the gospel. They spoke, sang, and lived Christ everywhere.



## II. The Church Witnessing in Judea and Samaria 8:5--12:25

### A. Witnessing in Samaria 8:5-25

Philip the evangelist - he was just a sample of the other deacons.

There is very little given concerning the apostles from here to end of Acts.

Many of the Samaritans believed, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit.

Note: Peter's discernment of Simon the Sorcerer.

### B. Witnessing in the Desert 8:26-40

A prepared man (Philip) sent to meet a prepared heart.

Note: the obedience of Philip. Left a revival to deal with one man.

God will never send his servant on a fool's errand.

A hungry man leaving the temple of God and still hungry. Will God leave him thus?

God uses men to reach men.

From that scripture Philip preached Christ. Isa. 53.

(Are we prepared to do this?)

### C. The Conversion of Saul 9:1-31

God has His eye on one man - one of both Jewish and Gentile culture.

God's method of reaching the world is always men.

1. Saul's Condition vs. 1 cp. 8:3 made havoc of the church - a persecutor of Christians.

Cp. I Tim. 1:13-15; Gal. 1:13;

Acts 22:3-5 (yet a good man 23:1,

Phil 3:4-6)

2. Saul meets the Lord 9:3-19 This was no dream.  
He was brought face to face with God.  
Cp. I Cor. 9:1, I Cor. 15:8.  
Transformed from a persecutor to a believer, and an apostle.  
A chosen vessel 15-16 cp. Gal. 1:15-16  
no longer Saul but Christ.
  3. Saul's Ministry 20-31 cp. Acts 26:16-19;  
Gal. 1:15-19.  
Note the effect upon the church vs. 31.
- D. Witnessing in Judea 9:32-43 The ministry of Peter - accompanied with healings and miracles.  
The result - many believed and turned to the Lord 35, 42.
- E. Witnessing to Gentiles 10:1-48.
1. The vision to Cornelius 1-8 God preparing his heart cp. 11:14  
(Why didn't the angel communicate the gospel?) cp. I Peter 1:12.
  2. The vision to Peter 9-18 God preparing His servant.  
God has to break down the walls of prejudice. Cp. Eph. 2:14.  
Peter needed to know He was the God of the Gentiles too, cp. Jonah, Romans 3:29.  
There is no race superiority, and God is no respecter of persons.
  3. Peter's journey 19-33  
Note his obedience, even though he was still wondering.  
Note vs. 33 - a good congregation - all present, before God, to hear His Word.

4. Peter's message 34-43 cp. Gal. 2:14-16  
Note the simple testimony vs. 43.  
"Whosoever believeth" etc.

5. The result 44-48 They believed and  
received the Holy Spirit to the amazement  
of the Jews present.

F. Vindicating the ministry to the Gentiles  
11:1-18 Peter's report.  
The question - what do you mean by eating  
with the Gentiles, etc.  
The answer - Peter's experience - who was  
I to withstand God?  
The result 44-48 They glorified God.

G. Witnessing in Antioch 11:19-30  
This is to become the center for missionary  
activity to the Gentiles.  
It was the third largest city in the empire,  
and also at the crossroads East and West,  
North and South.  
Barnabas 22-30 Paul's companion in the  
ministry to the Gentiles. Note his  
character and ministry 4:36-37, 11:22-26.  
His discernment, generosity, a good man,  
filled with the Spirit, meek and had a  
warm ministry.  
They were called "Christians" first at  
Antioch. People in whom Christ dwelled.  
(This is no longer a Jewish sect).

H. Peter in prison ch. 12 Herod killed  
James, and wanted Peter too.  
There are four Herods: Herod the Great,  
Herod the Tetrarch, Herod the King, Herod  
Agrippa. (All were violent men).  
The opposition is now headed up in a  
King (Priests, Sadducees, now a King).  
There are two forces at work here: Herod  
and his soldiers, and a weak church praying.

1. James killed 12:1-2 the brother of John.
2. Peter in jail and then delivered 3-19  
Peter is a good sleeper.  
Cp. Luke 9:32, 22:45-46.  
Note the prayers of a weak, doubting church, were mightier than the sword of Herod, etc.
3. The death of Herod 12:21-25  
Note, the word of God grew and multiplied.

### III. The Church Witnessing to Gentiles 13:1--28:31

Paul the main character.

We come now to a definite change in the book of Acts. In cs. 1-12 Peter is the central figure. He speaks twice to Israel, twice to its leaders, then Samaritans, ch. 8, to Gentiles ch. 10, in jail ch. 12.

Peter goes off the scene, and in cs. 13-28 Paul is the central figure. Cp. Gal. 2:7-8.

The testimony goes West instead of East. Is there not Divine guidance in this? God knew the aggressiveness of the West.

Jerusalem is left, and Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch and from there to the Gentile world - now Antioch is the missionary center.

#### A. Paul's first missionary journey 13:1--14:28

1. Chosen to witness 13:1-4 cp. I Cor. 3:9  
Note the cooperation between the Holy Spirit and the church.  
A church working in harmony with God, hence, a missionary church. The Holy Spirit separates, fills and sends. He is sovereign. The church taught, prayed, fasted and sent.  
The Spirit was the leader and the church obeyed.



They were released by the church and sent by the Spirit.

Note: some stayed, some were sent.  
(Unless God calls and sends, then stay where you are).

2. The opposition to the witness 13:4-13  
It is Satanic Cp. Matt. 16:22-23  
We see judgment upon the false prophet, but love toward the Gentiles.  
Note: we see a special anointing for a specific task vs. 9.  
The reason - a hungry soul is involved.  
The message vindicated and believed  
cp. vs. 9 and vs. 12.
3. Witnessing in Antioch of Pisidia  
13:14-52. cp. Acts c 7  
Note how the Word of God is used here.  
Paul took up God's purpose to bring forth a Saviour 23-36 and His work guaranteed by His resurrection.  
The effect of the message 42-52 and the verdict.  
The Jews 43-46. Note the verdict in vs. 46, cp. 18:6, 28:25-28.  
The Gentiles 42, 47, 48 They were glad God had a message for them.  
The Disciples, 52 filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
4. The witness continued ch. 14.  
In Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, then back to Antioch.
  - a. At Iconium 14:1-7  
The message is the same and many believed. Good news for sinners  
cp. I Cor. 2:1-5.



b. At Lystra 14:8-20

Note the miracle here 8-10 cp.  
Acts ch. 3, crippled from birth,  
etc.

Result - the people wanted to  
worship Barnabas and Paul.

Paul's rebuke 14-18 - they should  
have worshipped the God who created  
them. Cp. Acts 17: 24-30, Ps. 19;  
Rom. 1:20. Note the fickleness  
of the people - worship one minute,  
stone the next.

The opposition - delivered at Antioch  
13:50, warned at Iconium 14:5-6, now  
stoned at Lystra 14:19, (why not  
delivered)?

The greatest peril was not being stoned,  
but being worshipped by men.

(The Lord was with them all the way.  
Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20).

They established the churches 21-23  
and returned to Antioch, etc.

B. The council at Jerusalem 15:1-35 cp. Gal. c 2

1. The Issue 1-5 Are the Gentile believers  
to be put under the law of Moses?

They wanted the Gentiles to come to  
Christ through Judaism; and especially  
that they be circumcised.

Why should they be occupied with Moses  
when they have Christ?

2. The Discussion 6-21

a. Peter's testimony 7-11 esp. note  
vs. 9-11; Gal. 2

God put no difference between Jew  
and Gentile ch. 10 hence, why tempt  
God, etc. Even we Jews must be  
saved, even as the Gentiles - by  
faith, without works or ceremonies,  
etc.

b. The testimony of Paul and Barnabas vs. 12

God vindicated their message.

c. The testimony of James 13-21 and his conclusion. Note vs. 13-18.

A great, broad prophetic outline cp. Amos 9:11-12.

James proves from the Scriptures that the Gentiles are to be saved before our Lord's return. This was part of God's plan. This is what He is doing now. He is gathering out a people for His name.

His exhortation 19-21, 28-29 not to trouble the Gentiles who have turned to God.

Restrictions are asked for the testimony's sake.

Note their cooperation with the Holy Spirit 28. Cp. 5:32, 13:1-3.

Man's need, whether Jew or Gentile, is Christ.

3. Reporting back to Antioch 30-35

C. Paul's Second Missionary Journey 15:36--18:22

1. The Contention 15:36-41 because of personalities.

Barnabas and John Mark - now it is Paul and Silas.

2. The Call to Macedonia ch. 16 (Paul finds Timothy 1-5).

a. Knowing the will of God 16:6-13  
Note "Forbidden" vs. 6, he tried to go north and was stopped, He kept on going until God changed his course.



The important thing is that God will always guide the heart that really wants His will.

Note the open door 9-11. The call into Europe and the immediate obedience. Once the will of God is known, then act - move.

(God turned Paul from the millions of Asia to the western world. God knew the aggressiveness of the West).

b. The first convert in Europe  
16:14-15

The open door into Europe was at a prayer meeting.

The first convert? a successful business woman - what if she had missed the prayer meeting? Business did not keep her away from the prayer meeting.

c. The Opposition to the Gospel  
16:16-24

(Note the two women in the chapter).

First by Satan. 16-18 What the girl said was true. Cp. Luke 4:41, 8:28. How did she know Paul?

Secondly by persecution. 19-24  
Another one of Satan's methods.

d. The Joy of the Gospel. 25-28  
Cp. Phil 4:4. Sang in jail.

The theme of their song - Jesus Christ and salvation.  
Their circumstances did not rob them of joy or their song.

- e. How to receive the Gospel 29-31  
Conviction, then they believed.  
cp. John 3:16, 5:24.
  - f. The result of the Gospel 32-34  
The whole household believed. They were instructed, baptized, full of joy, and ministered, etc.  
The church at Philippi - a successful business woman, a Roman jailer, and possibly the demon possessed girl, all transformed by the power of the gospel.
3. Witnessing in Europe 17:1--18:22  
In Thessalonica - Berea - Athens - Corinth.
- a. Paul in Thessalonica 17:1-9  
cp. I Thess. 1:5-10.  
Spent three weeks here - cp. vs. 6  
"Turned the world upside down."  
Note Paul's method of preaching to the Jews 2-3.  
Note the opposition 5-9, the reason was envy. cp. I Thess. 2:14-16.
  - b. Paul at Berea 17:10-15  
The sign of nobility, "They searched the Scriptures daily."  
The result? Many believed. (Was Paul telling the truth?)
  - c. Paul at Athens 17:16-34  
Disputing with the wise of this world. cp. I Cor. 1:18-31.  
Paul's heart stirred - hence, preached Jesus and the resurrection.  
Note: he started where they were, "The Unknown God." In his message he started with creation and ended with judgment.

The result 32-34. Some mocked, scoffed - some believed.

(Note: the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee of judgment to those who do not believe.

cp. vs. 30-31).

d. Paul at Corinth 18:1-22

(He is eighteen months here).

Paul had little success at philosophical Athens, but a real harvest at dissolute Corinth.

Corinth dedicated to Venus - a sinful, wealthy, corrupt city.

Note: "Gallio cared for none of these things" vs. 17. Total indifference.

From Corinth Paul returned to Antioch.

D. Paul's Third Missionary Journey 18:23--20:38

Paul spent most of his time at Ephesus - there 3 years. cp 20:31.

Ephesus was a well instructed church.

cp. Rev. 2:1-7.

1. Paul at Ephesus 19:1-41

It was here God wrought special miracles by the hand of Paul.

It was here the Word of God grew and multiplied.

a. The Gospel received 19:1-7

Paul found twelve of John the Baptist's disciples.

He declared the gospel to them; they believed, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit. (These were Jews).



- b. The Gospel and its power 8-12  
Note the separation in vs. 9-10.  
Note how the testimony of the gospel went out from Eph. vs. 10.  
God wrought special miracles by the hand of Paul.  
Why? The Word of God grew and prevailed vs. 20.
  - c. The Gospel and its opposition 13-16  
These were Jewish religious leaders, priests - these tried to make merchandise of the gospel - hence, judgment. *They did not know Christ personally*  
Note: the knowledge of demons vs. 15  
cp. Luke 8.
  - d. The gospel and its fruitage 17-20  
The Lord's name magnified; the believers transformed, and the enemy routed.
  - e. The opposition of materialism 21-41  
The riot and its result.
2. Paul at Troas 20:1-12  
The breaking of bread - the upper room - Eutychus raised up, etc.  
Note the interest in hearing the Word, "Until the break of day."
3. Paul and the Ephesian Elders 20:13-38  
at Miletus.  
Here is one of the most touching records of love and care for God's people.  
(Read it often).
- a. The spirit of the ministry 18-19  
Lowly in mind - tender - patient - meek. cp. II Cor. 10:1, Rom 9:1-3.

- b. Diligent in the ministry 20-21, 24-27.  
He gave the full revelation of the truth.  
He was always giving out the Word of God. He neglected none - from house to house, etc. I Cor. 9:19-22. Life meant nothing but to finish the course. cp. Phil. 1:20-21; II Tim. 4:6-8.
- c. The theme of the ministry 21, 24, 27.  
cp. I Cor. 2:1-5, Acts 17:3, 18 etc.  
Theme - the person and work of Christ - with whom Paul was in love. (There can be no compassion in our ministry until we have a passion for Christ).  
The responsibility of man - repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. The burden of the ministry 28-32.  
Warnings and exhortations to the elders.  
Care for God's people = he bought them for Himself.  
Outside are wolves vs. 29.  
Inside are fightings vs. 30.  
His provision for us vs. 32.  
Note his great love and compassion for them 36-38.

E. Paul at Jerusalem 21:1--23:35.  
A prisoner with a new ministry cp. Eph. 3:1, 4:1.

- 1. The pleading of his friends 21:1-14.  
He acknowledged their love. You may break my heart, but not my convictions.  
The Spirit had warned him, 20:22, 21:4, 11.



2. His motive 21:15-26 Did Paul compromise all he had taught?  
The condition of the church at Jerusalem was one of compromise and accommodation - hence had lost its power and influence.  
Paul's motive I Cor. 9:19-23.  
(His consent was wrong, but his motive was right).
3. The opposition 21:27-40.  
It was based on lying and supposition vs. 28-29.  
Paul is left by the church and is rescued by the Romans.  
The Jews - jealous for the law and tradition - ready to kill.  
The church - powerless because of compromise.  
Paul - with a passion for the salvation of his people.
4. His defense before the Jews 22:1-23.  
(Here we have the people, the Council, and the Romans).  
His testimony -  
    before conversion 22:1-5. He was just like them.  
    his conversion 22:6-16. He met the Lord face to face, it was no dream.  
    after conversion 17-21. Called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.  
    Their rage 22-23 and their blindness.
5. Paul before the Romans 22:24-30.  
Born a Jew - trained and educated - stands upon his Roman citizenship.

6. His defense before the Council 23.  
The Council made up of Pharisees, Sadducees, and lawyers.
  - a. His defense 23:1-8.  
His testimony and message, and the issue is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
  - b. God's encouragement to Paul vs. 11.  
The Lord stood by him. Heb. 13:5-6 (the church?)  
The prison became a sanctuary - the Lord was there.
  - c. Their plot to kill Paul 12-35.  
God used a boy. (He loves to use boys).
- F. Paul at Caesarea cs 24-26 About two years a prisoner.
  1. Before the Roman Governor Felix, c 24.
    - a. The opposition 24:1-9 They used lies and flattery.
    - b. Paul's defense 24:10-23.  
He mentioned what he believed 14-15.  
His character vs. 16.  
The issue again is the resurrection from the dead.
    - c. His message to Felix, vs. 24-27.  
Note the three truths mentioned in vs. 25 which reached the conscience of the Governor.  
The result - convicted, but no acceptance.  
There never is a convenient time  
cp. II Cor. 6:2.

2. His defense before Festus c 25.  
The issue again is the resurrection of our Lord from the dead vs. 19.  
Paul appeals to Caesar - this puts Festus in a predicament - he has no ground for charges against Paul.
3. His defense before King Agrippa c 26.
  - a. His defense 6-8  
The hope of Israel is resurrection.  
This is not incredible.
  - b. His testimony 9-15   How he met the Lord.  
This is his last message in Acts and he preaches to the heart of a king.
  - c. His call 16-18, to be a witness and minister (note these verses).  
"To open blind eyes - turn men from darkness to light - from the power of Satan unto God - and receive forgiveness" etc.
  - d. His response 19-26   He was not disobedient.
  - e. His great desire 27-32.  
What a yearning for men to know His Saviour.  
"All that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." vs. 29.

G. Paul at Rome cs 27-28.

1. The journey to Rome c 27   Shipwrecked.
  - a. Paul's advice rejected 27:1-12.  
The centurion took the Word of an experienced seaman.



- b. In the storm 13-20 All hope gone vs. 20.
- c. The God given hope 21-26 The Word of God the foundation for hope.
- d. The action of the sailors 27-32. They thought only of themselves.
- e. The encouragement 33-38 Paul takes command.  
The man of God stands out and thanks God publicly, "before them all."
- f. All hands safe 39-42 Because of the man of God.  
(How much influence do we have with the unsaved)?

2. In Rome c 28.

- a. Hospitality rewarded 28:1-10  
The blessing of God upon them.
- b. Fellowship with the brethren  
28:11-15  
How this must have strengthened and comforted Paul.  
Paul had written to the saints at Rome and desired to see them.  
cp. Rom. 1:1-13.
- c. His burden for his Jewish brethren  
17-29.  
Their attitude was one of uncertainty - Paul uses Isa. ch. 6.  
His final words to them v 28.  
cp. 13:46, 18:6.



- d. Paul's ministry in Rome 30-31.  
Preaching - teaching - writing,  
(cp. Eph. Phil. Col.).  
Christ always at the center,  
whether preaching, teaching, or  
writing.

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