Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

Lesson 26

Studying the Bible: Acts

May 10, 2016

Acts

Author: Luke

Date: 60's, before the death of Paul.

To: Theophilus

Emphasis: Part 2 – the continuing story of salvation, available through Jesus, spreading throughout the world.

Structure:

1:1-6:7 the Good News begins in Jerusalem.

- Prologue
- Completing the 12 apostles.
- Coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Early life of the church in Jerusalem: successes and rising opposition.
- Emergence of Greek-speaking and Aramaic-speaking Jewish Christians.

6:8-9:3 the Good News spread to Judea and Samaria.

- Emergence of Stephen and Phillip as leaders.
- Stephen's martyrdom results in many believers leaving Jerusalem.
- Philip expands gospel into Samaria.

9:32-12:24 the Good News spreads to the Gentiles.

- Conversion of the House of Cornelius.
- Founding of the Antioch church.
- Peter's escape from prison.

12:25-16:5 the Good News spreads to Asia.

- Shift to the church in Antioch and Paul's ministry.
- Contention over the role of the Gentiles in the church.

16:6- 19:20 the Good News spreads to Europe.

- Paul's 2nd & 3rd missionary trips.
- Continuing conflict with pagan authorities and Diaspora Jews.

19:21-28:30 the Good News (and Paul) reaches Rome.

- Paul's trials and defense.
- Journey to Rome: the perilous journey.

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 112-131
HTRTBBBB: pages 296-303

Key Verses:

Acts 2:37-40

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off— for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Notes