

Series: Acts

Sermon: Acts 1:1-3

Passage: 1:1-3

Illustration:

Need: We will study Acts with the understanding that it is the first movements of the continuing work of Jesus that we are called to today.

I. Who?

- Author = Luke, the beloved Greek/Gentile Physician. (Acts 16, 20, 27; Col. 4, 2 Tim. 4, Philemon 24)
- Probably met Paul on his 2nd missionary Journey in Troas (Acts 16).
- Reconnected with Paul on his 3rd missionary journey from Philippi back to Troas (Acts 20).
- Traveled with Paul to Rome and stayed with him through his imprisonment there (Acts 27)

II. What?

- The Acts of the Apostles is Luke's sequel to his gospel. Written to the same man - Theophilus.
- Jesus Christ is the main character in his 1st work while the Holy Spirit is the main character in the 2nd.
- It is a summary record of the start of the church and the spread of Christianity.
- Chap. 1-7 = The birth of the church; Chap. 8-12 = The rise of the church; Chap. 13-19 = The expansion of the church; Chap 20-28 = The challenges of the church (Chuck Swindoll)

III. Where & When?

- Most Bible scholars believe that Luke wrote Luke-Acts from Rome during Paul's 1st imprisonment.
- The dating is likely between 62-64 AD. Peter executed in 64; Paul executed in 68; Jerusalem destroyed in 70AD.
- Spans the first 3 decades of the infant church beginning in 30 AD.

IV. Why?

- To commend the gospel to the Gentile world.
- To further defend the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His instructions to His disciples.
- To press forward the progress of God's Kingdom in this time between.
- To demonstrate the transition from the Old Covenant (law) to the New Covenant (grace through faith); from Jesus on earth to the Holy Spirit in hearts; from Israel to the church; from Jews to Gentiles/Jews; from Jerusalem to Antioch; from Peter to Paul.
- To document the spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to all Judea/Samaria and to the end of the earth.
- To set the stage for the ongoing work of the church in every generation

V. So what?

- We study Acts to be reminded of what our purpose is as followers of Jesus.
- We study Acts to be reminded of where our power comes from to accomplish His purpose.
- We study Acts to be reminded of why it is possible for God to use us just like He used them!

(Next week - Read the gospel of Luke & Acts 1:1-11)