

The Disciples Commissioned as Witnesses (Acts 1)

Key Verse: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Prologue: Dedicated to Theophilus (1:1-3)

I. Jesus Commissioned the Disciples as Witnesses (1:4-11)

- A. The disciples were commanded to wait for the Holy Spirit (4-5)
- B. The disciples were asked about the kingdom (6)
- C. The disciples were to be witnesses to Jesus (7-8)
- D. Jesus ascended to heaven (9)
- E. Jesus will come again (10-11)

II. The Disciples Replaced Judas as Apostle (1:12-26)

- A. The disciples waited in Jerusalem (12-14)
- B. Peter proposed replacing Judas (15-22)
 - 1. The Scripture must be fulfilled (15-17)
 - 2. Judas took his own life (18-19)
 - 3. The Scripture commanded replacement (20)
 - 4. The replacement should qualify as an apostle (21-22)
- C. The disciples proposed Joseph and Matthias (23)
- D. The disciples prayed for guidance (24-25)
- E. The disciples chose Matthias (26)

Peter Preached Christ on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

Key Verse: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)

Introduction: On the Day of Pentecost, The Holy Spirit descended from heaven and filled the disciples with the power to bear witness to the resurrection. Peter preached the Gospel to Jews and over 3,000 believed and were baptized. The church grew in number daily.

I. The Holy Spirit Filled the Disciples for Witnessing (2:1-13)

- A. It was on the Day of Pentecost (1; Lev. 23:17 ff)
- B. There was the sound of a rushing mighty wind (2)
- C. There was the appearance as of divided tongues of fire (3)
- D. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (4)
- F. They spoke in other languages (4)
- G. The crowd marveled at the many languages (5-11)
- H. The crowd wondered what this meant (12-13)

II. Peter Preached That Jesus Is Lord and Christ (2:14-36)

- A. Peter addressed the crowd (14)
- B. This fulfills Scripture (15-21; Joel 2:28-32)
- C. God raised Jesus from the dead (22-24)
- D. David foretold the resurrection (25-31; Psa. 16:8-11)
- E. The Apostles are eye witnesses of the resurrection (32-33)
- F. Jesus ascended to God's right side (34-35; Psa. 110:1)
- G. Therefore, Jesus is both Lord and Christ (36)

III. Many People Believed and Were Saved (2:37-47)

- A. The people were convicted (37)
- B. Peter commanded repentance and baptism (38-40)
- C. About 3000 were baptized (41)
- D. The Church grew spiritually and numerically (42-47)

Conclusion: The church had a spectacular beginning and grew in numbers because Spirit-filled believers witnessed boldly to the Gospel.

Peter Preached in Solomon's Porch (Acts 3)

Key Verse: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

Introduction: On their way to pray in the temple, Peter and John healed a lame beggar which became an occasion for Peter to preach again to the Jews.

I. Healing a Lame Man Drew a Big Crowd (3:1-10)

- A. Peter and John went to the Temple (1)
- B. A lame man asked for alms (2-3)
- C. Peter healed the lame man (4-7)
- D. The lame man leaped and praised God (8)
- E. The people were amazed at the healing (9-10)

II. Peter Preached the Gospel to the Crowd (3:11-26)

- A. Peter questioned the crowd's amazement (11-12)
- B. God glorified Jesus by the healing (13-16)
 - 1. God glorified His servant Jesus (13)
 - 2. The crowd had crucified Jesus (14-15)
 - 3. God raised Jesus from the dead (15)
 - 4. Peter and John are witnesses (15)
 - 5. The man was healed through faith in Jesus' name (16)
- C. The Jews had crucified Jesus in ignorance (17)
- D. This happened to fulfill prophecy (18)
- E. The crowd should repent and be converted (19)
- F. Then God will send Jesus (20)
- G. In fulfillment of prophecy (21-26)
 - 1. He would be the prophet whom Moses foretold (21-23; Deut. 18:15-19)
 - 2. All the prophets spoke of Him. (24)
 - 3. The Jews are sons of the prophets and heirs of the promises (25-26; Gen. 22:18)

Conclusion: Peter took advantage of this crowd-gathering event to preaching the Gospel. We too should take advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel.

The Apostles Ignored a Prohibition to Preach Jesus (Acts 4)

Key Verse: Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Introduction: After Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple gate and preached the resurrection of Jesus, they were arrested and bore witness before the Sanhedrin. They were forbidden to preach in Jesus' name and released, but they met with the church and prayed for boldness.

I. Peter Proclaimed the Authority of Jesus (4:1-12)

- A. Peter and John were arrested for preaching (1-3)
- B. However, many had believed their message (4)
- C. Peter and John were questioned about their authority (5-7)
- D. Peter preached the authority of Jesus (8-10)
- E. There is no other authority for salvation (11-12; Psa. 118:22)

II. The Apostles Were Commanded Not to Preach Jesus (4:13-22)

- A. The rulers discussed what to do with them (13-16)
- B. They commanded them not to preach Jesus (17-18)
- C. Peter said they could do nothing else (19-20)
- D. They were threatened and released (21-22)

III. The Church Prayed for Power to Preach Jesus (4:23-31)

- A. Peter and John returned to the church (23)
- B. The church prayed and praised God (24-28; Psa. 2:1-2)
- C. They prayed for boldness to preach (29-30)
- D. They were filled with the Holy Spirit (31)

IV. The Church prospered in Preaching and Possessions (4:32-37)

- A. The church had common possessions (32)
- B. The apostles preached with power (33)
- C. The people shared with one another (34-35)
- D. Barnabas sold property to share with all (36-37)

Conclusion: While it is right for Christians to obey civil authorities, they should continue proclaiming the Gospel even when it is prohibited. Fervent praise and prayer will provide the needed boldness to do so.

The Church Disciplined Members and also Were Persecuted (Acts 5)

Key Verse: Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

Introduction: While the early church had all things common, they encountered an internal problem—the first occasion for church discipline. Likewise, they encountered further external problems—persecution and imprisonment.

I. The Church Disciplined Members for Dishonesty (5:1-11)

- A. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their giving (1-2)
- B. Peter questioned Ananias about the lie (3-4)
- C. Ananias fell dead and was buried (5-6)
- D. Peter questioned Sapphira about the lie (7-9)
- E. Sapphira fell dead and was buried (10)
- F. The incident greatly affected the church (11)

II. The Church Was Persecuted for Preaching (5:12-32)

- A. The apostles did many miracles (12-13)
- B. Many believers were added to the Lord (14-16)
- C. The apostles were put in prison (17-18)
- D. An angel released them to continue teaching (19-21)
- E. The officers discovered their escape (22-25)
- F. The apostles were brought before the High Priest (26)
- G. The apostles were commanded not to preach (27-28)
- H. Peter defended their divine right to preach (29-32)
- I. Gamaliel advised against killing them (33-39)
- J. The apostles were beaten and released (40)
- K. The church continued to preach (41-42)

Conclusion: Christians should maintain personal integrity and boldness to witness in spite of persecution and imprisonment.

Deacons Were Elected and Were Witnessing (Acts 6)

Key Verse: Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:3-4)

Introduction: Because the church had grown so large, the duties of the apostles in caring for the widows consumed time needed for prayer and the ministry of the word of God. So, they had the church select deacons to assist them in such routine responsibilities. Stephen, one of these deacons, successfully debated with the Grecian Jews.

I. Deacons Were Elected to Help the Apostles (6:1-7)

- A. Neglecting widows caused murmuring (1)
- B. The Apostles ordered the election of deacons (2-4)
 - 1. The Apostles must not neglect the Word (2)
 - 2. Select seven Spirit-filled men to help (3)
 - 3. The Apostles will concentrate on prayer and preaching (4)
- C. Seven men were elected as deacons (5-6)
- D. The church prospered (7)

II. Deacon Stephen Was Arrested for Witnessing (6:8-15)

- A. Stephen successfully debated with the Jews (8-10)
 - 1. He was a Spirit-filled man (8)
 - 2. He debated with the Jews (9)
 - 3. They could not resist his wisdom and power (10)
- B. The Jews secured false witnesses against Stephen (11)
- C. The Jews arrested Stephen (12)
- D. False witnesses accused him of blasphemy (13-14)
- E. Stephen's face was like that of an angel (15)

Conclusion: The primary duties of a pastor are prayer and ministering the word of God. Deacons are ordained to help the pastor in the other routine responsibilities of the ministry. All members are witnesses.

Stephen's Sermon Ended in Martyrdom (Acts 7)

Key Verse: "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'" (Acts 7:59)

Introduction: When Stephen was brought before the Sanhedrin, his defense was a review of Israel's history of rejecting God's appointed witnesses and the Messiah.

I. Israel Rejected Joseph the Deliverer (7:1-16)

- A. God called Abraham from Mesopotamia (1-4)
- B. God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham (5)
- C. God predicted the 400-year bondage in Egypt (6-7)
- D. God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision (8)
- E. The patriarchs rejected Joseph (9)
- F. God used Joseph to deliver Israel from famine (10-16)

II. Israel Rejected Moses, the Deliverer (7:17-36)

- A. Israel became enslaved in Egypt (17-19)
- B. God raised up Moses to be their deliverer (20-22)
- C. The forefathers rejected Moses' leadership (23-29)
- D. God used Moses to deliver Israel (30-36)

III. Israel Rejected the True Worship of God (7:37-50)

- A. Moses foretold the coming Prophet (37)
- B. The forefathers rejected this great lawgiver (38-40)
- C. The forefathers rejected God for idols (41-43)
- D. The forefathers rejected God's tabernacle (44-50)

IV. Israel Rejected the Messiah (7:51-53)

- A. They always resist the Holy Spirit (51)
- B. The prophets all were killed (52)
- C. They have betrayed and murdered the Messiah (52)
- D. They have not kept the Law (53)

V. The Jews Martyred Stephen (7:54-60)

- A. The Jews gnashed Stephen with their teeth (54)
- B. Stephen saw Jesus standing in Heaven (55-56)
- C. The Jews stoned Stephen outside the city (57-59)
- D. Stephen asked the Lord to forgive them (60)

Conclusion: Christians should be prepared to give a defense of their faith under any possible circumstances.

Persecution Produces More Spirit-Filled Believers (Acts 8)

Key Verse: “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

(Acts 8:4)

Introduction: After the martyrdom of Stephen, the church scattered because of severe persecution, and deacon Phillip went to Samaria where he evangelized the region. Then the Holy Spirit sent him on the road to Gaza where he met an Ethiopian eunuch whom he led to Christ.

I. Persecution Scattered Powerful Preachers (8:1-8)

- A. Great persecution scattered the believers (1)
- B. Great lamentation was made at Stephen's burial (2)
- C. Great havoc was made by Saul (3)
- D. Great preaching was done by the scattered believers (4)
- E. Philip preached powerfully in Samaria (5-8)

II. Samaritan Believers Received the Holy Spirit (8:9-25)

- A. Simon the sorcerer believed and was baptized (9-13)
- B. Peter and John visited Samaria (14)
- C. Peter and John bestowed the Holy Spirit (15-17)
- D. Simon tried to purchase this power (18-19)
- E. Peter rebuked Simon's wicked desire (20-23)
- F. Simon asked for prayer (24-25)

III. Ethiopian Eunuch Believed and Was Baptized (8:26-40)

- A. Philip was sent to the road to Gaza (26)
- B. Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch (27-30)
- C. The eunuch needed the Scripture explained (31-34)
- D. Philip preached Jesus to him (35)
- E. The eunuch believed and was baptized (36-40)

Conclusion: Persecution may be a reason for fleeing to safety, but it should also be a reason for bearing bold witness to the Gospel. Who knows when, where, and how the Lord will use a faithful witness.

Saul Was Converted from Persecutor to Preacher (Acts 9)

Key Verse: “But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.” (Acts 9:27)

Introduction: While Phillip was preaching the Gospel to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul made havoc of the churches. But on the road to Damascus Jesus appeared to him and he became a devoted servant of Christ.

I. Saul Was Converted on the Damascus Road (9:1-9)

- A. Saul journeyed to Damascus to arrest Christians (1-2)
- B. The Lord Jesus appeared to Saul on the way (3-4)
- C. Saul acknowledged Jesus as Lord (5-6)
- D. Jesus sent Saul to Damascus (6-7)
- E. Saul obeyed, with fasting and prayer (8-9)

II. Ananias Obediently Baptized Saul (9:10-19)

- A. The Lord sent Ananias to Saul (10-12)
- B. Ananias expressed his fear (13-14)
- C. The Lord told of Saul's importance (15-16)
- D. Ananias obeyed and went to Saul (17)
- E. Saul was healed and obeyed the Lord (18-19)

III. Saul Obeyed the Heavenly Vision (9:20-30)

- A. Saul preached Christ in Damascus (20-22)
- B. Saul escaped death in Damascus (23-25)
- C. Saul preached Christ in Jerusalem (26-30)

IV. The Church Prospered in Peace (9:31-43)

- A. The churches had peace and multiplied (31)
- B. Peter healed Aeneas in Lydda (32-35)
- C. Peter healed Dorcas in Joppa (36-43)

Conclusion: While the Lord allows persecution of His people at times in order to accomplish His greater purposes, in the process some wonderful things happen that may have otherwise been impossible.

The Gospel Was Extended to the Gentiles (Acts 10)

Key Verse: “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’” (Acts 10:34-35)

Introduction: After the conversion of Saul, the Lord prepared the Apostles to receive gentiles into the Church. He sent an angel to a godly gentile leader, instructing him to send for Peter. In the meanwhile, the Lord gave Peter a vision indicating that gentiles were acceptable.

I. Gentile Cornelius Prayed for Salvation (10:1-8)

- A. Cornelius was a man of prayer (1)
- B. God commanded him to send for Peter (2-6)
- C. Cornelius sent servants for him (7-8)

II. God Sent Peter to Preach to Cornelius (10:9-23)

- A. Peter was a man of prayer (9)
- B. God gave Peter a vision on selflessness (10-20)
 - 1. God presented him food regarded as unclean (10-13)
 - 2. Peter refused the food as common (14)
 - 3. God taught him a lesson on cleanness (15-16)
 - 4. Peter wondered about the lesson (17-18)
 - 5. God explained how it applied to Gentiles (19-20)
- C. Peter was asked to go to Cornelius' home (21-23)

III. The Gentiles Believed and Were Saved (10:24-48)

- A. Cornelius was waiting for Peter's arrival (24-25)
- B. Peter explained God's acceptance of all men (26-29)
- C. Cornelius explained his desire for God's Word (30-33)
- D. Peter preached the Gospel to the Gentiles (34-43)
 - 1. God accepts men of all nations (34-35)
 - 2. Jesus is Lord of all (36-37)
 - 3. Jesus died on the cross (38-39)
 - 4. God raised Him from the dead (40-41)
 - 5. Jesus is judge of all men (42)
 - 6. Faith in Jesus provides forgiveness (43)
- E. The Gentiles believed and were filled with the Holy Spirit (44-46)
- F. The Gentiles were baptized (47-48)

Conclusion: Prayer should be offered free of all self-interest. Christians should be ready to share the Gospel with anyone on any occasion.

Compassion Extended to the Gentiles (Acts 11)

Key Verse: “When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’” (Acts 11:18)

Introduction: When Peter returned to Jerusalem, he reported the conversion of some Gentiles, defending it by the evidence of their receiving the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the gospel was extended to several remote Gentile cities, including Antioch of Syria. There Barnabas was sent to teach the church.

I. Peter Compassionately Defended Preaching to Gentiles (11:1-18)

- A. Peter was accused of defilement by the Gentiles (1-3)
- B. Peter repeated God's lesson on cleanness (4-10)
- C. Peter repeated God's command about Gentiles (11-12)
- D. Peter related how the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit (13-15)
- E. Peter reasoned about receiving Gentiles (16-17)
- F. The church agreed to receive Gentiles (18)

II. The Church at Antioch Compassionately Taught Gentiles (11:19-26)

- A. The Gospel went to Antioch (19)
- B. The Gentiles received the Gospel there (20-21)
- C. The church sent Barnabas to help (22-24)
- D. Barnabas brought Saul to help teach (25-26)

III. The Church of Antioch Compassionately Helped Jerusalem (11:27-30)

- A. The prophet Agabus foretold a famine (27-28)
- B. The church of Antioch collected an offering (29)
- C. They sent it by Barnabas and Saul (30)

Conclusion: The gospel is for all people of every nation. They need to be saved and taught the Scripture.

People Witness Martyrdom, Deliverance, Destruction (Acts 12)

Key Verse: "And when Peter had come to himself, he said, 'Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.'" (Acts 12:11)

Introduction: After Luke finished discussing the establishment of the church at Antioch, he focused again on the church at Jerusalem. There the saints experienced martyrdom, imprisonment, and avenging.

I. James Witnessed through Martyrdom (12:1-4)

- A. King Herod persecuted the church (1)
- B. James was killed with the sword (2)
- C. Herod put Peter in prison (3-4)

II. Peter Witnessed Deliverance through Prayer (12:5-19)

- A. The church prayed for Peter's deliverance (5)
- B. An angel released Peter from prison (6-10)
- C. Peter went to Mark's mother's house (11-12)
- D. Rhoda left him standing at the gate (13-14)
- E. The people were amazed at his release (15-16)
- F. Peter went to another place (17)
- G. Peter's guards were put to death (18-19)

III. People Witnessed Herod's Destruction (12:20-24)

- A. Herod was petitioned for peace (20)
- B. Herod gave a royal oration (21)
- C. Herod was given praise due only to God (22)
- D. Herod was struck dead for pride (23)
- E. God's Word prevailed (24)

Conclusion: While bearing bold witness for Christ, believers should not be surprised of persecution, but be ready for imprisonment or death for Christ.

The Church at Antioch Was Missionary-Minded (Acts 13)

Key Verse: “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:38-39)

Introduction: After the church at Antioch was well established, the Holy Spirit directed them to send Barnabas and Saul on their first missionary journey. They first sailed to Cyprus, Barnabas’ native land, and from there they sailed to Perga and then to Antioch of Pisidia, where they established a church.

I. The Church at Antioch Sent the First Missionaries (13:1-3)

- A. The church of Antioch taught the Word (1)
- B. The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul (2)
- C. The church sent them as missionaries (3)

II. The Missionaries Ministered in Cyprus (13:4-12)

- A. Barnabas and Saul sailed to Cyprus (4)
- B. They preached in the synagogues (5)
- C. They preached to proconsul Sergius Paulus (6-7)
- D. They rebuked Elymas the sorcerer (8-11)
- E. Sergius Paulus believed the Gospel (12)

III. The Missionaries Ministered in Pisidia (13:13-52)

- A. Barnabas and Saul traveled to Antioch of Pisidia (13-14)
- B. Paul preached in the synagogue (15-41)
 - 1. God raised up Moses, a deliverer (15-19)
 - 2. God raised up David, the king (20-22)
 - 3. God raised up Jesus the Savior, David's seed (23)
 - 4. John the Baptist introduced Him (24-25)
 - 5. The Jews crucified Jesus (26-29)
 - 6. God raised Jesus from the dead (30)
 - 7. This is the fulfillment of prophecy (31-37)
 - 8. Faith in Jesus provides forgiveness (38)
 - 9. Unbelief is dangerous (39-41)
- C. The Gentiles wanted to hear more (42-43)
- D. The next Sabbath the whole city came (44)
- E. The Jews interfered through envy (45)
- F. Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles (46-47)
- G. The Gentiles gladly believed (48-49)
- H. Paul and Barnabas were expelled (50-52)

Conclusion: Churches should be self-propagating. Faithful witnesses will suffer persecution, but the eternal rewards are worth the trouble.

The Apostles Patiently Endured Peril to Establish Churches (Acts 14)

Key Verse: “So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” (Acts 14:23)

Introduction: Paul and Barnabas continued travelling through Asia Minor preaching in the synagogues of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, organizing churches. Then they returned home to Antioch and reported on their work.

I. The Apostles Preached Patiently in Iconium in Spite of Plots (14:1-7)

- A. They preached in the synagogue (1)
- B. They were opposed by unbelieving Jews (2)
- C. They patiently witnessed a long time (3)
- D. They escaped a plot to kill them (4-7)

II. The Apostles Preached Patiently in Lystra in Spite of Murderers (14:8-20)

- A. Paul healed a crippled man (8-10)
- B. The people thought they were gods (11-13)
- C. The apostles persuaded them not to offer sacrifices (14-18)
- D. Paul was stoned by a multitude (19)
- E. Paul survived and they went to Derbe (20)

III. The Apostles Patiently Confirmed the Churches They Established (14:21-28)

- A. They preached the Gospel at Derbe (21)
- B. They confirmed the saints in the churches (21-23)
 - 1. They visited the churches (21)
 - 2. They strengthened the disciples (22)
 - 3. They appointed elders in the churches (23)
- C. They returned to Antioch of Syria (24-26)
- D. They reported on their missionary activity (27)
- E. They stayed a long time (28)

Conclusion: Missionaries should evangelize and establish self-sustaining local churches. They should be sent by and accountable to local churches.

The Churches Peaceably Resolved Legalism Dispute (Acts 15)

Key Verse: “Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.” (Acts 15:2)

Introduction: In Antioch, a dispute arose over the necessity of circumcision and keeping the law of Moses for salvation. So, the church sent to the leaders at Jerusalem who determined that such was not necessary for Gentile believers.

I. The Church Peaceably Sought Counsel over Legalism Dispute (15:1-5)

- A. Dispute over legalism arose in the church (1-2)
- B. Decision made to seek counsel from Jerusalem (2)
- C. Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem (3-5)

II. The Jerusalem Church Peaceably Resolved the Dispute (15:6-21)

- A. The church gathered to consider the question (6)
- B. Peter defended salvation by faith (7-11)
 - 1. God used Peter to take Gospel to Gentiles (7)
 - 2. God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit (8)
 - 3. God made no distinction (9)
 - 4. God purified them by faith (9)
 - 5. Legalism tests God's grace (10-11)
- C. Paul and Barnabas reported on Gentile ministry (12)
- D. James, the pastor, defended salvation by faith (13-21)
 - 1. Salvation of Gentiles is Scriptural (13-18)
 - 2. Legalism is judged as wrong (19)
 - 3. Basic morality is right (20-21)

III. The Jerusalem Church Advised against Legalism (15:22-35)

- A. The church decided against legalism (22)
- B. The church sent an advisory letter to Gentiles (23-29)
- C. The messengers delivered the counsel (30-31)
- D. Teaching and preaching continued (32-35)

IV. Apostles Peaceably Resolved Dispute over Mark (15:36-41)

- A. Paul and Barnabas planned second mission (36)
- B. Dispute over John Mark arose (37-38)
- C. Dispute resolved by separate missions (39-41)

Conclusion: While circumcision and keeping the Law are not necessary for salvation, yet believers should maintain moral purity and be respectful of the dietary scruples of others.

The Holy Spirit Worked on the Second Mission (Acts 16)

Key Verse: “And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'” (Acts 16:30-31)

Introduction: Having the decree from the Church in Jerusalem in hand, Paul and Silas retraced the first missionary journey delivering the decree and confirming the churches. Then the Holy Spirit directed them to Macedonia where they continued preaching and establishing churches.

I. The Holy Spirit Led Paul and Silas on Second Mission (16:1-5)

- A. They visited the churches at Derbe and Lystra (1)
- B. They took Timothy with them (1-3)
- C. They delivered the Jerusalem Recommendation to the churches (4)
- D. The churches grew in faith and number (5)

II. The Holy Spirit Led Paul and Silas to Macedonia (16:6-10)

- A. The Holy Spirit forbade preaching in Asia (6)
- B. The Holy Spirit forbade preaching in Bithynia (7)
- C. The Holy Spirit gave the Macedonian call (8-10)

III. The Holy Spirit Gave the First Macedonian Convert (16:11-15)

- A. They traveled to Philippi in Macedonia (11-12)
- B. They attended the riverside prayer meeting (13)
- C. Lydia and her household were saved (14-15)

IV. The Holy Spirit Led to Conversion of the Jailer (16:16-34)

- A. A demon-possessed girl was healed (16-18)
- B. Her masters had Paul and Silas arrested (19-21)
- C. The magistrates put them in prison (22-24)
- D. Paul and Silas praised God in prison (25)
- E. An earthquake released their chains (26)
- F. The jailer asked how to be saved (27-30)
- G. The jailer and his household believed and were baptized (31-34)

V. The Holy Spirit Led to the Next Town (16:35-40)

- A. The magistrates asked them to leave quietly (35-36)
- B. Paul and Silas asked for public exoneration (37-39)
- C. They encouraged the brethren and left (40)

Conclusion: Proclaiming the Gospel in new places arouses resistance and draws believers to the Savior. Building the Kingdom is perilous but profitable and praiseworthy.

The Gospel Was Preached in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens (Acts 17)

Key Verse: “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He had given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)

Introduction: After Paul and Silas were released from prison in Philippi, they travelled on to Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens, preaching the Gospel. In Athens, Paul was invited to proclaim the Gospel to the philosophers at the Areopagus.

I. Paul and Silas Preached in Thessalonica (17:1-9)

- A. They went to Thessalonica (1)
- B. Paul taught in the synagogue three Sabbaths (2-3)
- C. Many Jews and Greeks believed (4)
- D. The unbelieving Jews stirred up trouble (5-9)

II. Paul and Silas Preached in Berea (17:10-15)

- A. They went to Berea (10)
- B. They taught in the synagogue (10)
- C. The Berean Jews received the word readily (11)
 - 1. They were more fair-minded
 - 2. They searched the Scriptures daily
- D. Many Jews and Greeks believed (12)
- E. The Thessalonian Jews stirred up trouble (13)
- F. The brethren sent Paul to Athens (14-15)

III. Paul Preached Christ in Athens (17:16-34)

- A. Paul was disturbed by the idolatry in Athens (16)
- B. Paul reasoned in the synagogue and marketplace (17)
- C. Paul was invited to speak in the Areopagus (18-21)
- D. Paul preached Christ to the Athenians (22-31)
 - 1. The Athenians are very religious (22)
 - 2. Paul proclaimed the "unknown God" to them (23)
 - 3. God, the Creator, does not dwell in man-made temples (24-25)
 - 4. God made man to seek the Lord (26-27)
 - 5. God is man's source of existence (28)
 - 6. The Divine essence is not gold, silver, stone (29)
 - 7. God commands all men to repent (30)
 - 8. Because He will judge the world in righteousness (31)
 - 9. His ordained Judge was raised from the dead (31)
- E. Some mocked and some believed (32-34)

Conclusion: Christians should be ready to bear witness to people of all social categories.

Missionaries Trained National Believers (Acts 18)

Key Verse: “And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:11)

Introduction: After his ministry at Athens, Paul went to Corinth where he met Aquila and Priscilla and worked in their business until Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia. He remained there for 18 months teaching and preaching before returning to Jerusalem.

I. Paul Taught in the Corinthian Synagogue (18:1-6)

- A. Paul went to Corinth (1)
- B. Paul worked as a tentmaker (2-3)
- C. Paul taught in the Synagogue (4-5)
- D. Paul turned to the Gentiles (6)

II. Paul Taught National Believers in Corinth (18:7-17)

- A. Paul moved his teaching to the house of Justus (7)
- B. Crispus and many others believed (8)
- C. The Lord encouraged Paul in a vision (9-10)
- D. Paul continued teaching for 18 months (11)
- E. The Jews accused Paul before the proconsul (12-17)

III. Paul Took Time for a Furlough (18:18-23)

- A. Paul sailed for Syria (18)
- B. Paul stopped off at Ephesus to preach (19-21)
- C. Paul visited Jerusalem and Antioch (22)
- D. Paul returned to the mission field (23)

IV. National Believers Trained Their Own Missionary (18:24-28)

- A. Apollos visited Ephesus, preaching John's baptism (24-25)
- B. Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos more accurately (26)
- C. Apollos became a powerful missionary (27-28)

Conclusion: Serving the Lord can become difficult, but the Lord is there to provide the needed encouragement.

The Missionaries Turned the Nationals from Magic and Idolatry (Acts 19)

Key Verse: “And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.” (Acts 19:18-19)

Introduction: After Paul finished his visit with the church at Antioch, he returned to the region of Asia, strengthening the believers, eventually ending up at Ephesus.

I. Paul Taught in Ephesus for Two Years (19:1-10)

- A. Paul baptized twelve followers of John the Baptist (1-7)
- B. Paul taught in the synagogue three months (8)
- C. Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus two years (9-10)

II. Paul Turned Believers from Practicing Magic (19:11-20)

- A. Paul worked many miracles (11-12)
- B. Jewish exorcists failed to imitate Paul's power (13-16)
- C. Many feared and magnified the Lord Jesus (17)
- D. Many believers turned away from practicing magic (18-19)
- E. The Word of God prevailed (20)

III. The Silversmiths Rioted Against the Way (19:21-41)

- A. Paul made preparation to go to Jerusalem (21-22)
- B. Demetrius raised up opposition to the Way (23-28)
- C. A mob seized Gaius and Aristarchus (29)
- D. Paul's friends prevented him from going to their aid (30-31)
- E. Alexander the Jew could not quiet the mob (32-34)
- F. The city clerk finally calmed and dismissed the crowd (35-41)

Conclusion: While proclaiming the Gospel publicly, one can expect opposition; but one should also expect some to believe and obey.

The Missionaries Encouraged National Believers (Acts 20)

Key Verse: “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

Introduction: After the riot in Ephesus, Paul returned to Macedonia, where he visited the churches, strengthening them in the faith. Then, with representatives of the various churches, they sailed to Troas on their way to Jerusalem.

I. Paul Encouraged the Believers in Greece and Troas (20:1-16)

- A. Paul encouraged the believers in Greece for three months (1-3)
- B. Paul and companions traveled through Macedonia to Troas (4-6)
- C. Paul encouraged the believers in Troas for seven days (7-12)
 - 1. They worshipped on Sunday (7)
 - 2. Paul preached until midnight (7)
 - 3. Eutychus fell from the third story window (8-9)
 - 4. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (10)
 - 5. Paul fellowshiped and comforted them until daybreak (11-12)
- D. Paul and companions traveled to Miletus (13-16)

II. Paul Encouraged the Ephesian Elders at Miletus (20:17-38)

- A. Paul summoned the Ephesian elders to Miletus (17)
- B. Paul reminded them of his ministry to them (18-21)
- C. Paul recounted his determination to visit Jerusalem (22-25)
 - 1. The Holy Spirit foretold trouble there (22-23)
 - 2. Paul was determined to witness there in spite of trouble (24)
 - 3. Paul would likely not see the elders again (25)
- D. Paul declared his innocence of bloodguilt (26-27)
- E. Paul warned them against potential false teachers (28-30)
- F. Paul reminded them to watch over the church (28, 31)
- G. Paul commended them to God and His Word (32-35)
- H. Paul prayed and bade them farewell (36-38)

Conclusion: Church leaders need encouragement and warning to watch diligently over their flock.

Missionaries Worked for Unity of Believers (Acts 21)

Key Verse: “Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.” (Acts 21:24)

Introduction: Paul went to Jerusalem to deliver the gifts from the Gentile churches to the poor. The church leaders persuaded him sanctify himself and offer the sacrifices of a vow to demonstrate his loyalty to the Law of Moses. While in the temple, he was attacked by a mob and arrested by the temple guards.

I. Paul Visited the Believers in Tyre (21:1-6)

- A. Paul sailed to Tyre (1-3)
- B. They stayed with believers seven days (4)
- C. They warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem (4)
- D. They bade Paul farewell (5-6)

II. Paul Visited the Believers in Caesarea (21:7-14)

- A. Paul sailed to Caesarea (7-8)
- B. They stayed with Philip the evangelist (8-9)
- C. Agabus warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem (10-12)
- D. Paul was determined to go, even to death (13-14)

III. Paul Tried to Unify the Believers in Jerusalem (21:15-26)

- A. Paul traveled to Jerusalem (15-17)
- B. Paul met with James and the elders (18-25)
 - 1. He reported on his ministry to the Gentiles (18-19)
 - 2. James spoke of possible disunity over the law (20-21)
 - 3. James suggested Paul demonstrate loyalty to the law (22-24)
 - 4. James exempted the Gentiles (25)
- C. Paul sponsored four Jews in a vow (26)

IV. Paul Aroused a Mob of Jews (21:27-40)

- A. Paul was arrested in the Temple (27-29)
- B. The people tried to kill Paul (30)
- C. The Roman commander rescued Paul (31-32)
- D. The commander could not ascertain Paul's crime (33-34)
- E. The people demanded Paul's death (35-36)
- F. Paul requested permission to address the people (37-40)

Conclusion: Faithfulness to the Lord may result in danger and trouble with civil authorities. We should be faithful in spite of threats and physical harm or death.

Missionaries Used Citizenship for Protection (Acts 22)

Key Verse: “And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?’” (Acts 22:25)

Introduction: When Paul was arrested in the temple, he asked and was permitted to give his testimony to the people. When he mentioned being sent to the Gentiles, the crowd went into an uproar, and he was taken into protective custody.

I. Paul's Citizenship Provided Him a Hearing (21:40-22:21)

- A. He addressed the crowd in Hebrew (21:40-22:2)
- B. He identified himself as a zealous Jew (22:3)
- C. He described his former persecution of Christians (22:4-5)
- D. He reported his conversion on the Damascus Road (22:6-16)
 - 1. Jesus appeared to him (6-9)
 - 2. Saul confessed Jesus as Lord (10)
 - 3. Jesus sent him to Damascus for further instructions (10-11)
 - 4. Ananias told Paul to receive back his sight (12-13)
 - 5. Ananias told Paul he was chosen to witness to all men (14-16)
- E. He told of his commissioning in Jerusalem (22:17-21)
 - 1. Jesus appeared to him in Jerusalem (17)
 - 2. Jesus warned of Jewish unbelief (18)
 - 3. Paul wanted to witness to the Jews (19-20)
 - 4. Jesus sent Paul to the Gentiles (21)

II. Paul's Citizenship Protected His Life (22:22-30)

- A. The Jews violently rejected Paul's message (22-23)
- B. The Roman commander ordered Paul's arrest (24)
- C. Paul protested arrest as a Roman citizen (25-28)
- D. The Romans treated him with respect (29)
- E. The Jews were allowed to interrogate Paul (30)

Conclusion: Witnessing to a hostile crowd may be very dangerous, but a faithful witness should be courageous.

Missionaries Were Protected by Civil Government (Acts 23)

Key Verse: “This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.” (Acts 23:27)

Introduction: When Paul gave his defense to the Jewish mob, they rioted and the Roman commander held him in custody for a trial before the Jewish council. Then he delivered Paul from a plot to assassinate him, and sent him under guard to the Governor in Caesarea.

I. The Roman Commander Rescued Paul from the Jewish Council (23:1-10)

- A. Paul was brought before the Jewish council (22:30)
- B. Paul defended his integrity (23:1-5)
 - 1. He claimed a good conscience (1)
 - 2. He was struck at the High Priest's command (2)
 - 3. He rebuked the High Priest for injustice (3)
 - 4. He apologized to the High Priest (4-5)
- C. He divided the Jews over the resurrection (6-10)
 - 1. He identified himself as a Pharisee (6)
 - 2. This created a division (7-8)
 - 3. The Pharisees took Paul's side (9)
 - 4. The commander rescued Paul from the Jews (10)

II. The Roman Commander Rescued Paul from a Jewish Ambush (23:11-22)

- A. The Lord personally encouraged Paul (11)
- B. 40 Jews conspired to assassinate Paul (12-15)
- C. Paul's nephew informed the Roman commander (16-22)
 - 1. His nephew heard the plot (16)
 - 2. His nephew told Paul (16)
 - 3. His nephew told the commander (17-22)

III. The Roman Commander Delivered Paul to the Governor (23:23-35)

- A. The commander sent Paul to Caesarea (23-24)
- B. The commander sent a letter to Felix (25-30)
- C. The soldiers delivered Paul to Felix (31-35)

Conclusion: The Lord protects His servants while they carry out His purposes.

Missionaries Witness to Civil Authorities (Acts 24)

Key Verse: “And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’” (Acts 24:24-25)

Introduction: After being rescued from the Jewish assassins, Paul gave his defense before Felix the governor in Caesarea.

I. The Jews Accused Paul before Felix (24:1-9)

- A. The Jews went to Caesarea to accuse Paul (1)
- B. The orator Tertullus accused Paul before Felix (2-8)
 - 1. He gave Felix a courteous greeting (2-4)
 - 2. He accused Paul of creating dissension (5)
 - 3. He accused Paul of heresy (5)
 - 4. He accused Paul of sacrilege (6)
 - 5. He accused the commander Lysias of violence (7-8)
- C. The Jews agreed with Tertullus' accusation (9)

II. Paul Defended Himself before Felix (24:10-21)

- A. Paul gave Felix a courteous greeting (10)
- B. Paul denied sacrilege (11)
- C. Paul denied creating dissension in Jerusalem (12)
- D. Paul challenged the Jews to prove the charges (13)
- E. Paul confessed to being a Christian (14-16)
 - 1. He worships the God of his fathers (14)
 - 2. He believes the Word of God (14)
 - 3. He believes in the resurrection (15)
 - 4. He strives to have a good conscience (16)
- F. Paul explained his presence in Jerusalem (17-18)
 - 1. He brought an offering to his nation (17)
 - 2. He came to worship in the temple (18)
- G. Paul pointed out that no legal accusers were present (18-19)
 - 1. Jews from Asia made the complaint (18)
 - 2. They did not witness sacrilege (18)
 - 3. They did not witness dissension (18)
 - 4. They should be present as witnesses (19)
- H. Paul challenged the Jews present to prove a charge (20-21)

III. Felix Procrastinated His Decision (24:22-27)

- A. Felix postponed a decision (22)
- B. Felix put Paul in house arrest (23)
- C. Felix heard Paul's witness of Christ (24-25)
- D. Felix procrastinated receiving Christ (25)
- E. Felix kept Paul in prison two years (26-27)

Conclusion: When you hear the gospel it is unwise to delay believing and obeying.

Missionaries Witnessed to Kings (Acts 25)

Key Verse: “So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.” (Acts 25:23)

Introduction: After Paul spent two years in the Caesarean prison, Festus was appointed as the new governor. The Jews again accused Paul before Festus, but Paul appealed to appear before Caesar. So, Festus asked King Agrippa for advice.

I. Paul Appealed to Caesar for Protection (25:1-12)

- A. Festus visited Jerusalem (1)
- B. The Jews asked him a favor against Paul (2-3)
- C. Festus agreed to try Paul in Caesarea (4-5)
- D. In Caesarea the Jews accused Paul before Festus (6-7)
- E. Paul defended his integrity (8)
- F. Festus proposed to send Paul to Jerusalem (9)
- G. Paul appealed to Caesar as a Roman citizen (10-12)

II. Paul Appeared before King Agrippa for Review (25:13-27)

- A. Festus told King Agrippa about Paul (13-21)
 1. King Agrippa visited Festus (13)
 2. Festus told of Paul's problem with the Jews (14-15)
 3. Festus told of Paul's trial (16-20)
 4. Festus told of Paul's appeal to Caesar (21)

B. King Agrippa prepared to hear Paul's case (22-27)

1. Agrippa asked to hear Paul's case (22)
2. Paul was brought before Agrippa (23)
3. Festus reviewed Paul's case to Agrippa (24-27)

Conclusion: The Lord is able to protect His servants from the evil plots of His enemies.

Missionaries Gave Personal Testimony (Acts 26)

Key Verse: “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.” (Acts 26:19-20)

Introduction: After Paul appealed to Caesar, Governor Festus arranged for King Agrippa to review Paul’s case so he could have something to write to Caesar. So King Agrippa heard Paul’s defense.

I. Paul Testified of His Religious Zeal before Conversion (26:1-11)

- A. Paul asked for a patient hearing (1-3)
- B. Paul declared his background as a Pharisee (4-5)
- C. Paul revealed the resurrection as cause of his judgment (6-8)
 - 1. The resurrection is God's promise (6)
 - 2. The resurrection is Israel's constant hope (7)
 - 3. Paul was accused for this hope (7)
 - 4. The resurrection is not incredible (8)
- D. Paul related his persecution of Christians (9-11)

II. Paul Testified of His Conversion on the Damascus Road (26:12-23)

- A. Jesus appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road (12-13)
- B. Jesus spoke to Paul on the Damascus Road (14-18)
 - 1. He identified Himself as Jesus (14-15)
 - 2. He appointed Paul a minister and witness (16)
 - 3. He promised Paul deliverance (17)
 - 4. He sent Paul to preach the Gospel to Gentiles (17-18)
- C. Paul was obedient to the heavenly vision (19-20)
- D. The Jews tried to kill Paul for this (21)
- E. Yet what Paul preaches is Scriptural (22-23)

III. Paul Tried to Persuade Agrippa to Believe (26:24-32)

- A. Festus accused Paul of madness (24)
- B. Paul declared the Gospel to be common knowledge (25-26)
- C. Paul appealed to Agrippa to believe (27)
- D. Agrippa was almost persuaded (28-29)
- E. Agrippa declared Paul innocent of crime (30-32)

Conclusion: One’s position and wealth often prevent being persuaded of the gospel, but God’s purposes are accomplished in spite of unbelief.

Missionaries Experienced Shipwreck (Acts 27)

Key Verse: “But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.” (Acts 27:41)

Introduction: While Paul was sailing to Rome, the ship encountered a hurricane which eventually drove the ship aground onto an island called Malta where they spent the winter.

I. Paul and Other Prisoners Started Journey to Rome (27:1-12)

- A. Paul and other prisoners were delivered to a centurion (1)
- B. They sailed to Sidon where Paul was given liberty (2-3)
- C. They sailed to Myra and changed ships (4-6)
- D. They sailed to Fair Havens with difficulty (7-8)
- E. Paul advised wintering at Fair Havens (9-10)
- F. The owner decided to sail on to Phoenix (11-12)

II. The Ship Almost Sank in a Storm (27:13-38)

- A. The ship was caught in a storm (13-16)
- B. The sailors tried to strengthen the ship (17-19)
- C. The sailors gave up hope of deliverance (20)
- D. Paul encouraged the sailors (21-26)
 - 1. He promised all would be saved (21-22)
 - 2. God's angel promised deliverance (23-25)
 - 3. The ship will run aground (26)
- E. The ship drew near land (27-29)
- F. The sailors were prevented from abandoning ship (30-32)
- G. Paul encouraged the people to eat (33-38)

III. The Ship Ran Aground on Malta (27:39-44)

- A. Day break revealed land (39)
- B. They ran the ship aground (40-41)
- C. Everyone escaped to dry land (42-44)

Conclusion: The Lord may take His servants through treacherous trials while leading them in their ministry.

Paul Witnessed to Christ in Rome (Acts 28)

Key Verse: “So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.” (Acts 28:23)

Introduction: While wintering in Malta, Paul ministered to the native people. Finally, upon arrival at Rome, he witnesses to the Jews and many visitors while under house arrest for two years.

I. Paul Witnessed to Christ on Malta (28:1-10)

- A. The survivors escaped to Malta (1-2)
- B. Paul was miraculously unhurt by a viper (3-6)
- C. Paul healed many of diseases (7-9)
- D. The citizens honored Paul and companions (10)

II. Paul Arrived at Rome (28:11-16)

- A. They sailed to Syracuse (11-12)
- B. They sailed on to Rhegium and Puteoli (13)
- C. The Roman Christians came to meet Paul (14-15)
- D. Paul was kept in house arrest in Rome (16)

III. Paul Witnessed to the Jews in Rome (28:17-31)

- A. Paul invited the Jews for a conference (17)
- B. Paul explained the reason for his imprisonment (17-20)
- C. The Jews desired to hear about Christ (21-22)
- D. Paul declared the Gospel to the Jews (23-29)
 - 1. He explained about the Kingdom (23)
 - 2. He persuaded them concerning Jesus (23)
 - 3. He persuaded them from the Scripture (23)
 - 4. Some were persuaded (24)
 - 5. Paul warned the unbelievers (25-27)
 - 6. Paul declared that Gentiles may be saved (28-29)
- E. Paul ministered two years (30-31)

Conclusion: A believer should be a faithful witness to Christ in any environment and under any circumstances.