

STUDIES IN THE

BOOK OF ACTS

Prepared By

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LESSON #1: WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT

Text - Acts 1:1-26

1. Who wrote the book of Acts (a commentary or Bible dictionary will supply the answer)?

To whom is the book addressed?

2. Reference is made in verse 1 to a former treatise (account) which this man had written. What was this former treatise?

3. What commandments do you think are referred to in verse 2? (A look at Matthew 28:19-20 might help)

4. What promise, according to verse 5, had Jesus made to His apostles before His ascension?

Where were they to wait for this promise?

5. When were the apostles to receive power?

Where were they to be witnesses?

6. What promise was made to the apostles immediately after Jesus' ascension?

7. What important decision was made as they waited for the Spirit?

8. What qualifications had to be met by the one chosen?

9. What two things were done in the selection process?

Who was chosen?

Thought Questions

10. Study Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8. Combining the teaching of these verses, show how we can pinpoint the day of the coming of the kingdom.

11. Matthew 27:3-5 and Acts 1:18 both describe Judas' death. At first reading the two passages seem to be contradictory. How can the two passages be reconciled?

Combining the facts from both passages, describe what happened.

12. Why did the Lord want the apostles to wait for the Spirit before they started preaching? Consider John 14:26 and John 16:13.

13. What is a witness?

Of what important events were the apostles qualified to serve as witnesses?

LESSON #2: THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT – 3000 CONVERTED

Text - Acts 2:1-47

1. The Holy Spirit came on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus. Using a Bible dictionary, tell about the feast of Pentecost.

2. What were the apostles enabled to do when the Spirit came?

3. What amazed the multitude that gathered?

4. What accusation was made in mockery?

How did Peter answer the accusation?

5. Read carefully the sermon recorded in verses 22-36. If you were to give that sermon a title, what would it be?

6. What effect did the sermon have on the hearts of the hearers?

What was their question?

7. Give the answer, recorded in verse 38.

How many were baptized?

8. In these early days of the church, who were the miracle workers?

In whose teaching (doctrine) were the people continuing?

Thought Questions

9. According to Acts 1:15 there were 120 people gathered together as the apostles waited for the Spirit. Give evidence from chapters 1 and 2 that only the apostles received the baptism of the Spirit.

10. Write Acts 2:30 and in the place of each pronoun write the name of the person to whom the pronoun refers.

11. Who are the wicked (lawless) men of Acts 2:23?

12. It is said in Acts 2:47 that the saved were added to the church. Consider Matthew 16:18. To what church were they added?

Who did the adding?

Using this information, how would you define the Lord's church?

LESSON #3: HEALING OF THE LAME MAN

Text - Acts 3:1 - 4:22

1. Describe the lame man that was healed.

2. What did he ask for?
What did he receive?

3. What was the reaction of the people?

4. By whose power had the lame man not been healed?
Through whose power had he been healed?

5. Read Peter's sermon as recorded in Acts 3:12-26. If you were to give this sermon a title, what would it be?

6. What interrupted Peter's preaching?

7. Read carefully Acts 4:5-12. What charge did the council bring against Peter and John?

8. What caused the council to marvel?

9. What admission did the council make concerning the miracle?

10. What did Peter and John answer when they were told to no longer preach in the name of Jesus?

11. Why did they not punish Peter and John?

Thought Questions

12. Many similarities exist between the events of Acts, chapter 2, and the events of Acts, chapter 3. List as many as you observe.

13. The lame man asked for one thing, but received another. Does this sometimes happen in relation to our prayers?

Discuss this.

14. Write Acts 3:16 and in the place of each pronoun, write the name of the person to whom the pronoun refers.

15. According to Acts 4:1-2, what particularly annoyed the Sadducees concerning the apostles' work?

Explain this.

LESSON #4: THE DEATH OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

Text - Acts 4:23 - 5:11

1. Where did Peter and John go after their release?
2. Read carefully the prayer recorded in verses 24-30. What was their request in this prayer?
3. How were the needs of the poor among them being provided for?
4. What one man is specifically mentioned in relation to this care for the needy?
From whom did he get his name?
What does the name mean?
5. What did Ananias and Sapphira conspire between themselves?
6. For what sin were they stricken with death?
7. How did the church react to their death?

Thought Questions

8. Had you been praying under the circumstances that existed when Peter, John, and their company prayed, what are some things you might have asked for?

Would you have been wrong in doing so?

Discuss this.

Studies in the Book of Acts

9. Barnabas was apparently a good exhorter; one who was gifted in encouraging others. List some basic qualities that one must have to be able to exhort and encourage others effectively.

10. From the account of Ananias and Sapphira, show that the selling of possession and giving were voluntary in nature.

11. How would you show from this passage a distinction between individually controlled funds and collectively controlled funds?

12. Name some things that an individual might use his money for that would be inappropriate for church expenditures. Include in your list things that might be considered “good works.”

How does the church determine the proper use of its money?

LESSON #5: THE APOSTLES ARRESTED, TRIED, BEATEN

Text - Acts 5:12-42

1. According to this account of the apostles' miracles, how many that were brought to them were healed?
2. How did the apostles escape prison after their arrest?
3. Describe the happenings of the next morning as recorded in verses 21-27.
4. What charge was brought against the apostles on this occasion?
5. What was their answer?
6. Briefly summarize Gamaliel's reasoning that prevented the council from killing the apostles.
7. What did they do to the apostles?

What was their reaction to this persecution?

Thought Questions

8. Looking back over the first five chapters of the book of Acts, write the scripture references that tell of the apostles' performing miracles.

Do you find anyone other than the apostles performing miracles up to this point?

Studies in the Book of Acts

9. Is the reasoning of Gamaliel good reasoning?

Discuss this.

10. Since the work of the apostles did not come to nothing, what action on Gamaliel's part should have logically followed?

11. Are there any exceptions to the rule found in Acts 5:29?

Name several relationships to which this rule applies.

LESSON #6: THE SEVEN CHOSEN, STEPHEN IS KILLED

Text - Acts 6:1 - 7:60

1. What problem arose concerning the daily distribution to the needy?
2. How was the problem solved?
3. What two things were done in the appointment of these men?
4. What stirred up the Jews against Stephen?
5. Read Acts 7:1-53. As Stephen reviews the history of the nation of Israel, what would you say is his primary goal or theme?
6. What is his conclusion according to verses 51-53?
7. How did the council react to Stephen's speech?
8. At whose feet were the clothes laid of those who stoned Stephen?

Can you find proof elsewhere that this is the same man who later became the apostle Paul?

Thought Questions

9. Looking back over the first six chapters of the book of Acts, give scripture references that indicate the rapid growth of the church during this time.

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. What reasons can you think of that would help to explain why the church grew so rapidly?

11. It seems that even the problems that the church faced in its early days (sin of Ananias and Sapphira; murmuring over the neglect of widows) did not deter its growth. How would you explain their ability to overcome their problems and continue their growth?

12. Who chose the seven men on this occasion?

Who appointed them?

Is there a difference, then, between selecting and appointing?

LESSON #7: THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

Text - Acts 8:1-25

1. What caused the scattering of disciples into regions of Judea and Samaria?

2. What did the disciples do as they were scattered?

3. Tell of the miracles Philip performed as he preached in Samaria.

4. Who was Simon?
What had been the people's opinion of him before Philip's arrival?

5. What change took place when Philip came to Samaria, according to verses 12-13?

6. Why were Peter and John sent to Samaria?

7. What power did Simon want to obtain?
How did he try to obtain it?

8. What condition did this place Simon in, according to verses 21 and 23?

9. What was he told to do to be forgiven?

Thought Questions

10. What is there in this account that shows that the gospel has the power to break down prejudices?

Studies in the Book of Acts

11. Was Philip an apostle?

Give evidence from this passage that only the apostles could lay hands on others to give them powers of the Holy Spirit.

12. Referring back to the last question, when would you say Philip received power to perform miracles?

Give the scripture text that tells of his receiving this.

13. In Simon we can see that God has two different laws for those who would receive forgiveness - one law for the non-Christian, another for the Christian who has fallen back into sin. State the difference in these two laws and show how they applied to Simon.

14. The people of Samaria could see the difference between the fake (Simon) and the genuine (Philip) miracle worker. How can we determine whether a present day “miracle worker” is fake or genuine?

LESSON #8: THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN

Text - Acts 8:26-40

1. Where did the angel send Philip?

Where had Philip been before the angel's appearance to him?

2. Describe the man whom Philip met.

3. What question did Philip ask as he neared the chariot?

What answer did he receive?

4. Verses 32 and 33 contain the verses from Isaiah that the Ethiopian was reading. Briefly explain these verses.

Where are they found in Isaiah?

5. What question did the Ethiopian ask concerning the scripture?

Give a "one word" answer to that question.

6. Tell of the Ethiopian's baptism.

7. At what point did he go on his way rejoicing?

Thought Questions

8. Read back through the entire 8th chapter. Give evidence from Philip's preaching, both to the Samaritans and to the Ethiopian, that preaching "Jesus" involves more than just telling about Him as a man.

Studies in the Book of Acts

9. What qualities do you see in the Ethiopian that would make him the type of person who might be converted?

10. Show from this passage that the word “desert” in verse 26 does not refer to sandy, barren land.

What does the word mean as it is used in the scriptures?

11. To whom did the angel and the Spirit speak in this passage?

Isn't it possible that the Ethiopian would not have even known what the angel or Spirit did on this occasion?

Try to reconstruct the story of the Ethiopian's conversion as he might have told it.

12. Was the Ethiopian saved?

Was he a part of the Lord's church?

Was he a part of any denomination?

Was he a member of any local church?

LESSON #9: THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

Text - Acts 9:1-22

1. What authority did Saul seek from the high priest?
2. Tell briefly of the conversation that took place between Saul and Jesus.
3. What physical handicap followed the Lord's appearance to Saul?
4. What is said of Saul during the three days after his arrival in Damascus?
5. What reassurance did Saul receive during the three days through a vision?
6. Why was Ananias hesitant to go to Saul?
7. What two things was Saul to receive as a result of Ananias' coming?

What two things took place "immediately" according to verse 18?

8. What was the reaction of the people to Saul's preaching?

Thought Questions

9. Jesus said to Saul, "Why do you persecute me?" Why would Jesus say that He was the one Saul was persecuting?

Read Matthew 25:31-46. What does this passage teach that would apply to this question?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Many people believe that Saul was saved on the road to Damascus. Evidence can be found throughout the text that this was not the case. Give all the evidence along these lines that you can find.

11. Read carefully verse 17. Does this verse say that Saul received the Holy Spirit as a result of Ananias' laying his hands on Saul?

What did we learn in chapter 8 concerning who could impart special powers of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands?

When would Saul have received the Spirit?

12. Why do you think Saul would have waited until after his baptism to eat?

LESSON #10: SAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM, MORE MIRACLES

Text - Acts 9:23-43

1. How did Saul escape from Damascus?
2. Why did the disciples not want to receive Saul in Jerusalem?
3. Who convinced them that Saul was genuine?
4. Why did Saul leave Jerusalem and go to Tarsus?

What was the condition of the churches at this point?

5. What had been the condition of Aeneas before Peter healed him?
6. What were some of the good works Dorcas had done as a Christian?
7. Tell of Peter's raising her from the dead.
8. What were the results of this great miracle?

Thought Questions

9. The disciples in Jerusalem obviously thought that they had a right to refuse fellowship to one seeking to be in their number. Can you think of some reasons why this congregation might refuse to accept someone in its number?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Would our refusal to accept someone as a member of this local church necessarily mean that he or she was not a part of the Lord's church?

Who determines the makeup of the Lord's church?

Who determines the makeup of a local congregation?

11. Dorcas was remembered for her good works. What are some good deeds that you could render for the Lord and others?

12. Read Matthew 20:26-27. Who does Jesus say is great in His kingdom?

What are some wrong ways of trying to achieve greatness in Christ's kingdom?

Do the restrictions placed on women in the church prevent them from achieving greatness in the Lord's kingdom?

LESSON #11: THE FIRST GENTILE CONVERTS

Text - Acts 10:1 - 11:18

1. How is Cornelius described?
2. For what purpose did the angel appear to Cornelius?
3. Tell of the vision Peter saw.

According to verse 28, what had Peter learned from this vision?

4. Whom did Peter take with him as he went to Cornelius' house?

Why would he have wanted them to go?

5. What was Peter's reaction when Cornelius fell down and worshipped him?
6. What was the major subject of Peter's sermon?
7. What happened while Peter was preaching?

How did the Jewish Christians react?

8. What command did Peter give?
9. Read Acts 11:1-18. Make a list of the facts that Peter placed before the Jews in Jerusalem that convinced them of the correctness of his actions.

10. What was the final reaction of these Jewish Christians?

Thought Questions

11. The angel did not tell Cornelius what to do to be saved; Jesus did not tell Saul; an angel did not tell the Ethiopian, but sent Philip to him. What conclusion can we come to regarding those whom God has chosen to preach the gospel message?

12. Give evidence that Cornelius and those with him actually received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

13. Read carefully Acts 11:15. What expression in this verse suggests that what Cornelius received was an unusual happening?

14. Give evidence from Acts 11:1-18 that the Holy Spirit did not come upon Cornelius and those with him to save them.

15. Why, then, did they receive the baptism of the Spirit?

16. Read Acts 10:33. How did Cornelius express his preparedness to hear God's word?

How would this kind of attitude affect one's behavior in Bible classes and worship periods?

LESSON #12: BARNABAS AND SAUL AT ANTIOCH

Text - Acts 11:19-30

1. Into what areas was the gospel carried according to verse 19?

To whom were they preaching?

2. To whom did some preach in Antioch?

With what result?

3. What did the church in Jerusalem do when they received word of the good work being done?

4. What caused Saul to go to Antioch?

5. What took place first in Antioch?

6. Of what did Agabus prophesy?

7. What did the brethren in Antioch do in response to this prophecy?

8. By whom was the relief sent?

To whom was it delivered?

Thought Questions

9. Looking back over previous lessons in Acts, what qualities do you see in Barnabas that would make him ideal for the work the Jerusalem church sent him to accomplish?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Jesus Christ should be foremost in all our religious loyalties and service. Find expressions in Acts 11:20-24 that indicate that this was true of the workers described in these verses.

11. What are some improper loyalties that people can develop in religion?

12. There are three verses in the Bible that contain the word "Christian." Find them.

From these verses, would you conclude that God approved of that name? Consider also James 2:6-7.

13. When one wears the name "Christian" he wears Christ's name and makes the claim of being His follower. Make a list of obligations that one must accept as he wears such a name.

14. When the church in Antioch sent relief, did they send to where the need existed, or did they send to some other church or organization which stood between them and the need?

Which should churches do today?

Can you think of any applications of this teaching?

LESSON #13: HEROD PERSECUTES THE CHURCH

Text - Acts 12:1-25

1. Tell of the persecution that Herod brought against the church.
2. What was the church doing while Peter was in prison?
3. How did Peter escape?
4. Where did Peter go?
Tell of the confusion his presence caused.
5. What happened to those who had been responsible for Peter in prison?
6. Why was Herod stricken with death?
7. Who accompanied Saul and Barnabas when they returned to Antioch?

Thought Questions

8. Compare Acts 12:4 in the King James Version with the same verse in other translations. What major difference do you see?

Has the Lord authorized special holidays for celebrating His birth and resurrection?

9. How do you explain the surprise of the people at Mary's house upon seeing Peter?

Had they not been praying for him?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Name some occasions that ought to cause Christians to want to get together to pray.

11. Can men today fail to give God proper glory for their accomplishments?

Can you think of some characters in the scriptures who did give God credit for their accomplishments?

Can you think of some who did not?

LESSON #14: THE FIRST JOURNEY BEGUN

Text - Acts 13:1-52

1. What three men started out together on the first journey?
2. What three things were done by the Christians in Antioch as they sent them out?

Who called them to this work?

3. In what two cities on the island of Cyprus did they preach?
4. Why was Elymas stricken with temporary blindness?
5. How did Sergius Paulus react to their teaching and power?
6. What took place in Perga of Pamphylia?
7. In verses 14-41 we have recorded a rather lengthy sermon which Paul preached in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia. What resulted from this sermon according to verses 42-44?
8. What led to opposition against Paul and Barnabas?
9. List several expressions that indicate the success with which they preached in this area?
10. To what city did they go when they were expelled from Antioch?

Thought Questions

11. In Acts, chapter 8, Peter and John laid hands on the new converts of Samaria to give to them special powers of the Holy Spirit. Was this the reason for the laying on of hands in Acts 13:3?

Give the reason for your answer.

12. Why would the Jews be envious of Paul and Barnabas?

What are some things that can cause envy among people in the church?

13. What lesson should we learn from the punishment which Elymas received?

14. Make a list of the cities visited by Paul and Barnabas as recorded in this chapter. Be able to show where these are on the map.

LESSON #15: THE FIRST JOURNEY COMPLETED

Text - Acts 14:1-28

1. What were the results of the preaching in Iconium?

2. What caused Paul and Barnabas to leave Iconium?

3. What major event in Lystra caused the people to try to worship Paul and Barnabas?

4. What stopped them from doing so?

5. What turned the people of Lystra against these men whom they had tried to worship?

6. What suffering did Paul have to endure in this city?

7. After preaching in Derbe, where did Paul and Barnabas go?
What were they doing in these cities?

8. Where did they end their journey?
What did they do when they arrived back in that city?

Thought Questions

9. What is a synagogue?
Why would Paul and Barnabas begin their work in each city in the synagogue?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Can a church appoint just one elder?

Must there be more than one in each church?

Give the reason for your answer.

11. The people of Lystra were obviously fickle, worshipping Paul and Barnabas at one point, then turning around and stoning Paul. What are some ways that people can prove to be fickle today in their service to the Lord?

12. Make a list of all the cities visited by Paul and Barnabas in this first journey. Turn to a map in your Bible and trace in your mind the journey. Try to recall what happened in each place. Be prepared to do this if called on in class.

LESSON #16: QUESTIONS ARISE CONCERNING CIRCUMCISION

Text - Acts 15:1-35

1. What teaching caused controversy within the church at Antioch?
2. How was the controversy to be settled?
3. In verses 6-18, Peter, Paul and Barnabas, and James all agreed that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised. Read these verses and state briefly the basis on which each came to his conclusion:

Peter:

Paul and Barnabas:

James:

4. From what four things were the Gentiles told to abstain?
5. How was this conclusion to be communicated to the church at Antioch?
6. According to verse 28, what divine being had led to this conclusion?
7. What was the reaction of the church in Antioch when the letter was read?

Thought Questions

8. When a controversy arises today in the church, can we go to the apostles for an answer?

How?

9. What is the primary city of Judea?

Would the fact that these false teachers were from Judea tend to strengthen their influence?

Give the reason for your answer.

10. What verse in Acts 15 shows conclusively that the apostles had not been the original source of this false teaching?

11. When a controversy arises today, should men from many different congregations meet to decide for the churches what they should believe?

Why?

What would be different in such a meeting from what took place in Jerusalem?

LESSON #17: PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE

Text - Acts 15:36-16:10

1. What suggestion did Paul make to Barnabas?
2. What difference arose between them?
3. Who joined Paul and Silas at Lystra?
Describe him.
4. What were Paul and Silas delivering as they went from city to city?
5. Why did they not preach in Asia or Bithynia?
6. What vision did Paul see in Troas?
7. What was the immediate decision of Paul and his company?
8. Observe the difference in pronouns used in verse 10 from those used in verses 7 and 8. Who obviously joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy?

Thought Questions

9. Was sin involved in the controversy between Paul and Barnabas?
Give the reason for your answer.
10. Consider Barnabas' personality as pictured previously in Acts (4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:22-26). How would this have contributed to his determination to take John Mark?

Studies in the Book of Acts

11. Do you think John Mark might have been strengthened in some ways by Paul's refusal to take him?

Give the reason for your answer.

12. Acts 16:3 says that Paul circumcised Timothy. Why would he have done this after establishing that circumcision was not necessary for salvation?

LESSON #18: PAUL AND SILAS IMPRISONED IN PHILIPPI

Text - Acts 16:11-40

1. Where did Paul and his company go on the Sabbath?

Who was converted as a result?

2. What offer did she make to them?

3. What major event led to charges being brought against Paul and Silas?

4. What mistreatment did they endure?

How did they react to this mistreatment?

5. What events led to the jailer's conversion?

6. Why did Paul and Silas not leave the prison immediately when they were released?

7. What did they do before leaving Philippi?

8. From the pronouns used in verse 40, what would you conclude concerning Luke?

Thought Questions

9. It is obvious that some people care more for money than for the welfare of people. How is this fact illustrated in this lesson?

What indications exist that this is true in today's society?

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. Many religious groups put off baptisms for weeks or even months. What in this chapter would show that this is wrong?

11. Study verses 31-34. Show from these verses that the command to “believe” included more than just mentally agreeing to certain facts.

12. Do you think that it was just personal pride that would cause Paul and Silas to refuse to leave the prison?

What was to be gained by the magistrates personally escorting them from prison?

13. Turn to your map. Trace the travels of Paul and his company up to this point in this second journey. Try to remember what happened in each place.

LESSON #19: THE SECOND JOURNEY CONTINUED

Text - Acts 17:1-34

1. What were the results of Paul's preaching in Thessalonica?
2. Why was Jason forced to endure persecution in Thessalonica instead of Paul and Silas?
3. In what way did the Jews in Berea show themselves to be more noble than those in Thessalonica?
4. What forced Paul to leave Berea?
Who remained there?
5. What stirred Paul's spirit in Athens?
6. What attitude, common among the Athenians, brought about Paul's opportunity to speak?
7. Read carefully Paul's sermon, recorded in verses 22-31. If you were to give a title to this sermon, what would it be?
8. What were the results of his preaching in Athens?

Thought Questions

9. Were the charges brought against Jason and the other Christians, recorded in verses 6 and 7, true?

Give the reason for your answer.

Studies in the Book of Acts

10. What evidence can be seen in this lesson that the gospel is not equally successful in every city where it is preached?

What are some factors that determine the degree of success?

11. Make a list of facts that you can learn concerning the final judgment from verse 31.

12. Give your evaluation of Paul's introduction to his sermon in Athens, recorded in Acts 17:22-23.

Do you think this would be an effective introduction?

Why?

LESSON #20: PAUL IN CORINTH

Text - Acts 18:1-22

1. With whom did Paul stay in Corinth?

What did he have in common with them?

2. What attitude caused Paul to turn his attention to the Gentiles?

3. What is said in verse 8 to indicate Paul's success in preaching in Corinth?

4. What special encouragement did the Lord give Paul on this occasion?

How long did Paul stay?

5. What was different about Gallio from the other rulers Paul had stood before?

6. Who was Sosthenes?

What did he suffer?

7. What promise did Paul make to the people of Ephesus?

Whom did he leave there?

8. In what city did Paul end his second journey, according to verse 22?

Thought Questions

9. In verse 8, it is said that Crispus “believed,” while other Corinthians “hearing, believed, and were baptized.” Was more required of them than of Crispus?

Discuss this.

10. Using a Bible dictionary or commentary, write briefly about the moral conditions that existed in Corinth at the time Paul was there.

11. Discuss the pressures that Crispus must have faced in becoming a Christian.

12. Make a list of the cities Paul visited on his second journey. Be able to trace his journey on a map. Try to recall what happened in each place.

LESSON #21: PREACHING IN EPHEBUS

Text - Acts 18:23 - 19:41

1. Through what two provinces did Paul travel as he began his third journey?

2. Meanwhile, who had come to Ephesus?

What was the error of his teaching?

3. How did he learn the truth?

Where did he then go?

4. What error had existed with the twelve whom Paul baptized in Ephesus?

What two gifts of the Spirit did they receive when Paul laid his hands on them?

5. What happened to the seven sons of Sceva who tried to cast out demons in the name of “Jesus whom Paul preaches”?

6. How did the new converts in Ephesus show the genuineness of their conversion?

7. What two things disturbed Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen?

8. Describe the uproar that followed.

Thought Questions

9. Apollos must have been a powerful preacher. What expressions indicate that he was an extraordinary preacher?

10. What good qualities can you see in Aquila and Priscilla in their work with Apollos?

11. What was the purpose of John's baptism?

If God approved of his baptism, why did these twelve men need to be "re-baptized"?

12. Why wouldn't the Christians sell their books of magic and give the proceeds to the church?

13. Make a list of sinful items today that ought to be destroyed rather than sold.

14. Why do you think people will join a crowd when they really do not know what is going on?

LESSON #22: THE THIRD JOURNEY COMPLETED

Text - Acts 20:1 - 21:17

1. Through what areas did Paul travel after he left Ephesus?
2. What did Paul and all the disciples in Troas do on the first day of the week?
3. What remarkable miracle took place on this occasion?
4. For whom did Paul call when he stopped at Miletus?
5. On what basis did Paul say that he was pure from the blood of all men?
6. What warning did Paul give the Ephesian elders?
7. What saddened them most as Paul left?
8. What was the Spirit indicating in every place concerning Paul in Jerusalem?
9. What was Paul's reaction to their pleading for him not to go?
10. With whom were Paul and his company to stay in Jerusalem?
How were they received in Jerusalem?

Thought Questions

11. People offer many excuses for failing to meet with Christians on the first day of the week. What do you consider to be legitimate reasons for not doing so?

12. Consider Exodus 20:8-11. On what day was the Sabbath observed?

Was Paul in Troas on that day?

Why would they not have met on the Sabbath day to break bread?

13. How can it be said that the Holy Spirit makes men overseers in a local church?

14. Read carefully Acts 20:28-31. What are the responsibilities of elders as described in these verses?

15. Read Acts 20:17-35. List the good qualities that can be seen in Paul during the time of his preaching in Ephesus.

LESSON #23: PAUL IS ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM

Text - Acts 21:18 - 23:22

1. With whom did Paul meet on the day following his arrival in Jerusalem?
2. What did these suggest that Paul do to quiet some of the misunderstandings the Jews had of him?
3. What false accusation caused a mob to try to kill Paul?
4. Who rescued Paul?
Who had he thought Paul was?
5. Consider Paul's speech to the people, recorded in Acts 22:1-22. What is the primary subject of his speech?
6. What prevented the chief captain (commander) from examining Paul by scourging?
What does the expression mean, "Examine by scourging"?
7. What created a division within the Jewish council as they met to try to condemn Paul?
8. According to Acts 23:12-15, what conspiracy did some of the Jews plot against Paul?
9. Why did this fail?

Thought Questions

10. Did the chief captain (commander) ever really understand what the Jews had against Paul?

Discuss this.

11. Make a list of actions on the part of the Jews that demonstrate their unfairness and wickedness.

12. What verse in the text shows clearly that baptism is essential to salvation?

What other scriptures can you think of that teach that one must be baptized to be saved?

13. In Acts 9:7 it is said that those traveling with Paul toward Damascus heard the voice that spoke to Paul. But in Acts 22:9 it is said that they did not hear the voice. How do you explain this? (Comparing translations might help.)

LESSON #24: PAUL BEFORE FELIX

Text - Acts 23:23 - 24:27

1. Where did the chief captain (commander) send Paul for his protection?
2. What security measures did he take?
3. Describe the preparation made by the Jews in presenting their charges against Paul to Felix.
4. What charges did they bring against Paul?
5. Briefly summarize Paul's answer.
6. Who did Paul say ought to be witnessing against him if they had any charge against him?
7. Concerning what three subjects did Paul speak to Felix and Drusilla?
8. What was Felix's reaction?
9. What was Felix hoping to receive from Paul?
Why did he not release him?

Thought Questions

10. Consider the chief captain's letter to Felix, recorded in Acts 23:25-30. What lie do you see in the letter?

11. Using a Bible dictionary or commentary, find information concerning the moral character of Felix.

12. Felix made the mistake of procrastinating. Make a list of things that you tend to put off.

What are some of the problems that grow out of procrastination?

13. Do you think one ever finds it convenient to become a Christian?
Discuss this.

LESSON #25: PAUL BEFORE FESTUS AND AGRIPPA

Text-Acts 25:1 -26:32

1. What did the Jews have in mind when they asked Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem?
2. What was Festus' answer?
3. What suggestion did Festus make to Paul, leading to his appeal to Caesar?
4. Why was Festus especially anxious for Agrippa to hear Paul, according to Acts 25:24-27?
5. Read Paul's statement in Agrippa's hearing, recorded in Acts 26:1-23. What is the primary theme of the statement?
6. How did Festus react to what Paul was saying?
7. How did Agrippa react?
8. What was Paul's reply to Agrippa?
9. What was the opinion of both Agrippa and Festus concerning Paul's imprisonment?

Thought Questions

10. With the aid of a Bible dictionary or commentary, find the relationship between Agrippa and the various Herods that are spoken of in scripture.

Studies in the Book of Acts

11. Consider Acts 26:9. Is a person right with God as long as he is honest and sincere in religion?

Discuss this in light of this verse.

12. What does the word “apostle” mean?

At what point in Paul’s life did he learn that he was to be the apostle to the Gentiles?

What verse in our lesson says this?

13. Compare translations on Acts 26:28. Because of varying translations some people do not believe that Agrippa was really close to becoming a Christian. What would you say about this?

Why?

14. Write a brief paragraph discussing the sadness of one’s being almost, but not altogether, persuaded to be a Christian.

LESSON #26: THE VOYAGE TO ROME

Text - Acts 27:1 - 28:31

1. What two friends sailed with Paul? (Be sure to observe the pronoun.)
2. What advice did Paul give when they were about to leave Fair Havens?
3. For how many days was the ship lost in the storm?
4. What encouragement did the Lord give Paul during this time?
5. What did Paul prevent the shipmen from doing as they neared land?
6. What did he encourage all to do before leaving the ship?
7. Why were the prisoners not killed?
8. Tell of the miracles Paul performed on the Island of Melita.
9. What brought special encouragement to Paul as he neared Rome?
10. With whom did Paul meet after he had been in Rome for three days?
What was the purpose of this meeting?
11. For how long was Paul a prisoner in Rome on this occasion?
What were his living conditions during the time?

