

ACTS . . . THE CHURCH BEGINS
Acts 1:1-8

Woodland Park Church of Christ

6 January 2019

- Ecstatic to learn that Acts is the 2019 Bible Bowl book of focus.
- Encourage parents to study with and get behind our children.
- Members of the Lord's body should have a working knowledge of the book of Acts:
 - *And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound on earth, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **Matthew 16:19***
 - *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **Acts 2:42***
- Learn a lot about the teachings and church-establishing principles of the apostles in Acts.
- In fact, by having a general understanding, working knowledge, and full appreciation of this BOOK, you'll be *ready to give a defense (answer) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you . . . **I Peter 3:15***

CAPSULATION (OVERVIEW) OF ACTS

- Remember, Acts is considered the sequel to the four accounts of the gospel (life) of Christ, especially Luke. **See Luke 24:36-53**
- Acts begins with a brief summary of the Lord's last days on earth with His disciples.
- Judas Iscariot's place (as apostle) filled by Mathias. **Acts 1:15-26**
- The appearance of the Holy Spirit and Peter delivering the first gospel sermon on the Day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:1-39**
- Adding of 3,000 to the Lord's body; the love and unity in the church and its immediate meteoric growth. **Acts 2:40-47**
- Early problems in the church, both internal (deceit and complaining) and external (beatings, imprisonment, death), which encompasses the ordination of the first deacons and the stoning of Stephen – the first martyr. **Acts 3-8**

- The expansion of the church in face of staunch opposition and persecution, as the Word was preached in Samaria and converts were as far as Ethiopia -- **teaching us that the things people used to destroy us could very well be a part of God's to elevate us. Acts 8**
- Saul, armed with authority to persecute Christ's followers, was struck on road to Damascus, converted and began immediately preaching Christ. **Acts 9:1-25**
- Conversion of Cornelius in Joppa, which startled the Jewish brethren initially; notwithstanding the fact that many Jews rejected Christ. **Acts 10 – 11:18**
- Herod joined in vexing the church by killing the Apostle James (John's brother) and then moving to kill Peter. But Peter is spared. **Acts 12**



- Paul and Barnabas commissioned (at Antioch) for missionary tour took the gospel to Cyprus and Galatia with overwhelming success (but danger and near death experiences for Paul abounded). **Acts 13:2-14:28**
 - John Mark leaves work at Pamphylia. **Acts 13:13, 15:37-38**
- Tension regarding whether the Gentiles should observe Old Testament laws and precepts and the resolution by the Jerusalem council. **Acts 15:1-31**
- Paul takes Silas with him on his second missionary work (starting in Syria & Cilicia), while Barnabas and John Mark set out for Cyprus. **Acts 15:36-41**
- While on his second missionary journey, Paul met Timothy and established churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth and Ephesus.
Acts 16:1-18:21
- Paul's third missionary journey -- he would travel through Galatia, Phrygia, Macedonia, and Achaia. **Acts 19:1-21:9**



- Paul warned by Agabus and others not to go to Jerusalem, but Paul rejects their counsel, proclaiming that he is willing “**to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**” **Acts 21:10-14**
- Paul confronted by an angry mob at Jerusalem and taken into custody by Roman commander. **Acts 21:17 - 22:29**
- Paul is imprisoned, but he stands firm as a bold witness for Christ during trial —
 - Jewish council (**Acts 23:1-9**);
 - Governor Felix (**Acts 23:23 – 24:27**);
 - Festus and Agrippa (**Acts 25:1 – 26:32**).
- Paul appealed to Caesar and was sent to Rome to stand trial.
Acts 25:10-12

- In route to Rome, a storm destroyed the ship, but Paul and all other prisoners survived (island of Malta). **Acts 27:9-14**
- Acts ends, somewhat abruptly, with Paul under house arrest while awaiting trial, yet still preaching Christ! **Acts 28:30-31**
- So abruptly that many have quizzically wondered whether Luke had designs on drafting a third work.

**MUCH TO BE LEARNED AS WE DERIVE AND
PRESENT LESSONS FROM ACTS**

BUCKLE UP

&

STAY TUNED!

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17)

Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37, 15:7; Hebrews 11:6)

Repent of sins (Acts 2:38)

Confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38).

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**I John 1:8-9**); or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**).