

December

ACTS

- Dec 1** Acts 1:1-11—The Ascension - Note this is “part 2”... who was Theophilus? How was the question (v.6) so “wrong”? What is the powerful promise in 1:8? What would make this possible? What are we to be doing rather than “looking up into the sky”?
- Dec 2** Acts 1:12-26—Wait for the Holy Spirit - How was the “unfinished business” dealt with?
- Dec. 3** Acts 2:1-47—Pentecost – What’s the significance of wind and fire? How does God get people’s attention today? How was Peter able to quote so much of the Old Testament? Would we be able to preach like this? What does it mean today, “repent and be baptized”?
- Dec. 4** Acts 3:1-26—Peter heals a man Why were Peter and John at the Temple? Why do we go to our “temple”? What did the crippled man expect? What do we expect? How does Peter’s answer to the amazed crowd “echo” the message from Pentecost? What message should preachers be preaching today?
- Dec. 5** Acts 4:1-31—Boldness of Peter and John Why is v.12 extremely important in our day? How was it that the number of believers almost doubled? What was the result? Why isn’t the Church being persecuted today – or is it? What did the believers do when faced with opposition? What do we do?
- Dec. 6** Acts 4:32-5:11—The Early Church Who was Barnabas? What is the message from what happened to Ananias and Sapphira?
- Dec. 7** Acts 5:12-42—Persecution Why were the apostles arrested? (will that happen in our time?) Why did God send the angel to release them? (will that happen in our time?) What are examples today of “obeying God rather than men” (v.29)? Why does persecution rather than prosperity tend to spread the Gospel?
- Dec. 8** Acts 6:1-7—Seven Men What was the problem in the early church (of over 5,000 believers)? How did the church resolve this problem? What can we learn from this about resolving problems in the church today? How was it that even the priests “become obedient to the faith”? What does this say to us today?
- Dec. 9** Acts 6:8-7:53—Stephen Why was Stephen stoned? Why did Stephen recall Israel’s history (common history with them!) in his defense against the charges against him? What does it mean to be “stiff-necked, with uncircumcised hearts and ears”? Was Stephen being too harsh in his language?
- Dec. 10** - Acts 7:54-8:3—Persecuted and Scattered – What was “the last straw”? Why did Stephen pray as he did? What introduction do we have of Saul? Why is this important in this letter to Theophilus? How is Jesus’ command (Acts 1:8) being fulfilled? Why did the apostles stay in Jerusalem?
- Dec. 11** - Acts 8:4-25—Philip in Samaria - Why did the people listen to Philip? Would it help if preachers today could do these things? What do we learn from Simon? Why were Peter and John sent to Samaria? How do people today react like Simon? What happens to these people today?
- Dec. 12** - Acts 8:26-40—Philip and Ethiopian - The Ethiopian is the 2nd Gentile referred by name, who was the first? (Acts 6:5; see also 2:10-11) Why is this important? What if Philip hadn’t followed the Spirit’s leading? What if he didn’t know the meaning of the passage in Isaiah? How can we know the Spirit’s leading in our lives? How did Philip “witness”? How do we “witness”? Why did the Ethiopian request baptism?
- Dec. 13** - Acts 9:1-19a—Saul meets Jesus - What is the symbolism of the light? The significance of the voice? Why was Saul blinded? Why did Ananias react as he did? How do we react the same way? When was Saul baptized? Why at that time?
- Dec. 14** - Acts 9:19b-31—Changed man - Why the sudden change in Saul? Can we expect this of people today? How did Saul “increase in strength”? How did he “prove” that Jesus is the Christ? Are we supposed to “prove” that Jesus is the Christ too? (Read 1 Sam. 19 with v.25) – what message did this give to Saul and the Jews? What do we learn about Barnabas? How can we be a “Barnabas”?

Dec. 15 - Acts 9:32-42—Peter’s ministry - Why did Peter heal Aeneas? Peter pointed people to Jesus, not himself – What does this say about faith healers today? What is the important teaching concerning Tabitha / Dorcas? Why did God raise Dorcas from the dead? Like Lazarus and others, how much longer did she live?

Dec. 16 - Acts 10:1-23a—Cornelius and Peter – Why would this account of Cornelius be very important for Theophilus to know? How was it that Cornelius was a believer? (or was he?) Why did Peter need a vision to preach to the Gentiles? (What had God told Ananias about Saul? (9:15) Why was the vision given 3 times? Why did Cornelius want Peter to come to his house?

Dec 17 - Acts 10:23b-48—No favoritism – How did Peter fully understand the meaning of his vision? What barrier was broken in v.28? Peter went willingly even though he did not know the specific reason. What does that teach us about our faith and actions? What tremendous task awaited Peter? v.33 What did Peter preach about Jesus? How did “the Holy Spirit come on all who heard”? Who baptized the Gentiles?

Dec 18 - Acts 11:1-18—Report to the Church Why was Peter criticized? What does this teach us today? Why the repetition of Peter’s vision? What “changed the minds” of those who criticized? What does this teach us today?

Dec 19 - Acts 11:19-30—Gentile church in Antioch What does it mean “the Lord’s hand was with them”? Is this true also today? How can you tell? Who was Barnabas? How can we be a “Barnabas”?

Dec 20 - Acts 12:1-25—Jail break! Why was James executed? Why wasn’t Peter executed? What is the purpose of prayer? How could Peter be sleeping? How is Rhoda remembered? Why didn’t Peter stay at John Deck’s home? Ironically, rather than Peter’s death – whose death? Why was this?

Dec 21 - Acts 13:1-52—First Journey Begins How were the first missionaries sent out? How do we send out missionaries today? Why did John Deck leave Paul and Barnabas? What was the message that Paul preached to the Jews and Gentiles? Why did the Jews reject them? What was the result of this rejection? What does this teach us today?

Dec 22 - Acts 14:1-28—Trouble in the journey! Why were Paul and Barnabas able to do “miraculous signs and wonders”? Why were Paul and Barnabas called “gods”? Why were they then stoned? What can we expect when we speak the truth about Jesus?

Dec 23 - Acts 15:1-35—Turning Point What was the “sharp dispute and debate” all about? What issues today are like this? How was Peter’s thinking changed? (ch. 10) How did Barnabas and Paul give a defense to his Jewish critics? What was the resolution to the issue of Gentile believers? How does this apply to our church today?

Dec 24 - Acts 15:36-16:5—Divide and Multiply Why the dispute between Paul and Barnabas? What does it tell us about each of these missionaries? How did God work a double blessing as a result of this dispute? What can this teach us about disputes within the church? Who was Silas? Who was Timothy? How was the Church strengthened in faith and grew in numbers?

Dec 25 - Acts 16:6-40—Second Journey Begins Why did the Holy Spirit prevent Paul from preaching in the province of Asia? What does this teach us about plans that we make? Who is the “we” in v.10? Why did Paul travel over to Macedonia? Does God still communicate with His people through visions? How did the church in Philippi get started? Why did Paul and Silas leave?

Dec 26 - Acts 17:1-18:22—Believers and Unbelievers Why were the Jews jealous? How was their accusation (v.7) similar to what the Jews accused Jesus to have Him crucified? (see Jn. 19:12-16) How were the Bereans different / the same? Why didn’t a church get started in Athens? What was the “stumbling block” in Athens? Why does this continue to be “an offense”? Who are Aquila and Priscilla? Why did Paul stay in Corinth so long?

Dec 27 - Acts 18:23-19:41—Third Journey Begins How did God use Priscilla and Aquila to equip Apollos? Why was Apollos in Corinth and Paul in Ephesus? How did the church get a solid start in Ephesus? What caused the riot?

[Dec 28](#) - Acts 20:1-38—Heading back to Jerusalem Why did Paul revisit the churches in Macedonia and Troas? What does the story of Eutychus teach us? Why didn't the elders of Ephesus want Paul to go to Jerusalem? Why did Paul insist on going any way? (v.25, 36-38)

[Dec 29](#) - Acts 21:1-26—Ready to die Why did Paul go to Jerusalem, in spite of numerous warnings? How did Paul agree to show his faithfulness to being a God-fearing Jew? (1 Cor. 9:22-23, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings") Would we be willing to do something similar?

[Dec 30](#) - Acts 21:27-22:29—Uproar! Another false assumption and accusation! Again, what was the result? God's wonderful rescue again! How did Paul witness to his accusers? What does this teach us about possible times of trial and accusations? How can we respond? How was Paul's Roman citizenship a blessing in this situation?

[Dec 31](#) - Acts 22:30-23:11—Journey to Rome Begins Why would Paul address the Sanhedrin as "my brothers"? What was Paul's desire? How did Paul use the differences in the Sanhedrin? (What does Luke tell Theophilus about the differences? Aren't you glad his did?) Was this sinful or a good strategy? Again, the LORD speaks directly to Paul! (v.11) Does the Lord still do this today?