ACTS

30 YEARS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

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Acts 15: Recap

- Certain disciples began teaching that circumcision was necessary for salvation
- Peter, James, Paul, and Barnabas each speak at a meeting in Jerusalem to decide how to deal with this error
- The church at Jerusalem sends an official letter to Antioch addressing their stance on the issue

Application:

- The right way to refute error
- Leadership in action
- Congregational unity after a decision is made



A Simple Outline for Acts: WITNESSES

Witnesses in Jerusalem (1-7)

Witnesses in the rest of Palestine (8-12)

Witnesses to the remotest part of Earth (13-28)

WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1)
- 3. The Church is Established (Acts 2)
- 4. The Gospel is Preached (Acts 3)
- 5. The Beginning of Persecution (Acts 4)
- 6. Church Discipline and More Persecution (Acts 5)
- 7. Selection of the first servants (Acts 6)
- 8. The First Christian Martyr (Acts 7)

WITNESSES IN THE REST OF PALESTINE (8-12)

- 9. The Church is Scattered (Acts 8)
- **10.** A Persecutor is Converted (Acts 9)
- **11**. The Gospel is Preached to Gentiles (Acts 10-11)
- **12**. The Power of Prayer (Acts **12**)

WITNESSES TO THE REMOTEST PART OF EARTH (13-28)

- 13. Sunday 10/15: Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)
- 14. Wednesday 10/18: Conference in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

15. Sunday 10/22: Paul's Second Missionary Journey, Pt 1 (Acts 15-16)

- 16. Wednesday 10/25: Paul's Second Missionary Journey, Pt 2 (Acts 17-18)
- 17. Sunday 10/29: Paul's Third Missionary Journey, Pt 1 (Acts 18-19)

18. Wed 11/1: Paul's Third Missionary Journey, Pt 2 (Acts 20-21)

- 19. Sunday 11/5: Paul's Imprisonment at Jerusalem (Acts 22-23)
- 20. Wed 11/8: Paul's Imprisonment at Caesarea, Pt 1 (Acts 23-24)
- 21. Sunday 11/12: Paul's Imprisonment at Caesarea, Pt 2 (Acts 24-25)
- 22. Wednesday 11/15: Paul's Imprisonment at Caesarea, Pt 3 (Acts 26)
- 23. Sunday 11/19: Paul's Journey to Rome, Pt 1 (Acts 27)
- 24. Sunday 11/26: Paul's Journey to Rome, Pt 2 (Acts 28)
- 25. Wednesday 11/29: Acts Recap



Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 50 - 53)

PASSAGE	CITY VISITED	DATE*
Antioch, Syria	Acts 15:35	Summer A.D. 50
Derbe, Galatia	Acts 16:1-5	Summer A.D. 50
Lystra, Galatia	Acts 16:1-5	Summer A.D. 50
Troas, Asia	Acts 16:7–10	October A.D. 50
Samothrace, Thrace	Acts 16:11	October A.D. 50
Neapolis, Macedonia	Acts 16:11	October A.D. 50
Philippi, Macedonia	Acts 16:12–40	Until December A.D. 50
Amphipolis, Macedonia	Acts 17:1	December A.D. 50
Apollonia, Macedonia	Acts 17:1	December A.D. 50
Thessalonica, Macedonia	Acts 17:1–9	December A.D. 50 - May
Berea, Macedonia	Acts 17:10–14	51
Athens, Achaia	Acts 17:15–32	May - July A.D. 51
Corinth, Achaia	Acts 18:1–17	August A.D. 51
Cenchreae, Achaia	Acts 18:18	Sept. A.D. 51 -March 53
Ephesus, Asia	Acts 18:19–21	March A.D. 53
Caesarea, Palestine	Acts 18:22	March A.D. 53
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:22	March A.D. 53

* William M. Ramsay. St. Paul The Traveller and Roman Citizen. Kergel. 2001. p. 303.

ACTS CHAPTERS 16 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In Acts 16:1-5, we meet Timothy, a young disciple. What qualities or characteristics do you think made Timothy an effective disciple and preacher? How can we develop these qualities in our own lives?
- 2. The Macedonian Call (Acts 16:6-10) was a pivotal moment in Paul's missionary journey. Why was this such an important vision, and why do you believe the Holy Spirit had "prevented" preaching the word in Asia prior to this?
- 3. What do we know of Lydia, and how can we look for these characteristics in looking for those that are seeking to know Truth?
- 4. The casting out of the spirit of divination in Acts 16:16-24 caused a major disturbance. Was Paul right to cast out a spirit just for the sake of annoyance? Is there a lesson for us in the cause and effect of our emotionally charged reactions?
- 5. The earthquake in Acts 16:25-34 led to the conversion of the jailer and his household. What does this account teach us about the power of praise and worship, even in difficult circumstances?

- 6. Paul and Silas' decision to stay in prison rather than escape (Acts 16:35-40) had a profound impact on the jailer and then the broader community. What can we learn from their willingness to endure suffering for the sake of the gospel?
- 7. The theme of justice and Roman citizenship arises in Acts 16:35-40. Why do you think Paul did not mention this until now? How can we balance our individual rights as citizens of America with our responsibilities to Christ today?
- 8. The church in Philippi, as mentioned in Acts 16, played a significant role in supporting Paul's missions. How can our own congregation be actively involved in supporting evangelistic missions and outreach efforts?
- 9. Silas and Timothy, along with Paul, formed a close-knit team in Acts 16. What are the benefits and challenges of working together in evangelizing? How can we cultivate healthy partnerships in our own service to God?
- 10. The events in Acts 16 highlight the sovereignty of God in orchestrating circumstances for His purposes. How can we trust in God's providence even when faced with challenges and uncertainties in our own lives?

