

Monday Night Discipleship: Acts

Overview:

- I. Carson and Moo: Acts (Chapter 7):
 - A. Content: What is Acts about?
 - B. Author: Who wrote Acts?
 - C. Date: When was Acts written?
 - D. Audience and Purpose: To whom was Acts written and why?
 - E. Genre: What style of literature is Acts?
 - F. What does Acts contribute to our understanding of the faith?
 - II. REAP: Acts 17:16-34
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- I. Carson and Moo: Acts (Chapter 7):
 - A. Content: What is Acts about?
 1. The Mission and Foundation of the Church (1:1-2:41)
 2. The Early Church in Jerusalem (2:42-6:7)
 - a) The Heart of God's Church (2:42-47)
 - b) God gives an opportunity to preach in the temple (3:1-4:31)
 - c) God's protection of the early church (4:32-5:42)
 - d) Seven men selected (6:1-7)
 3. The Church expands from the Jews to the Samaritans (6:8-9:31)
 - a) Hostility in Jerusalem (6:8-8:4)

- b) The outer fringes of the Jewish people receive the Gospel (8:5-40)

- c) God calls Saul to reach the Gentiles (9:1-31)

- 4. Peter and the first Gentile Christian (9:32-12:24)
 - a) God's transforming work in Peter's life (9:32-11:18)

 - b) Peter's arrest and Herod's death (11:19-30)

- 5. Paul's Ministry to the end of the earth (12:25-28:31)
 - a) First Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)

 - b) Jerusalem Council Assesses (15:1-35)

 - c) Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)

 - d) Third Missionary Journey (18:23-28:31)

B. Author: Who wrote Acts? The internal and external evidence points to Luke.

C. Date: When was Acts written? The mid 60's A.D.

D. Audience and Purpose: To whom was Acts written and why?

1. Theophilus
 2. Carson and Moo also offer these four purposes to the book of Acts:
 - a) To instill certainty of the faith-
 - b) To evidence the unity of all believers-
 - c) To spread and defend the gospel-
 - d) To edify the local church
- E. Genre: What style of literature is Acts? In summary, the genre is considered a historical narrative.
- F. What does Acts contribute to our understanding of the faith? Carson and Moo offer 8 contributions that Acts makes to our understanding of Christianity.¹
1. Reliable History-
 2. The word of God-
 3. The plan of God-
 4. The presence of the future-
 5. Salvation-

¹ D.A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, *Introducing the New Testament: A short guide to its history and message*, ed. Andrew David Nasselli (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 59-63.

6. Paul-

7. The Holy Spirit-

8. The people of God.

R.E.A.P.

Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^[k] ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’,^[d] as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’^[e]

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day

