

## LESSON 1: ACTS CHAPTERS NINE AND TEN

### EVENTS IN CHAPTER 9

1. Saul meets Jesus on his journey to Damascus: 1-9
2. The vision to Ananias: 10-16
3. The conversion of Saul: 17-18
4. Saul's first preaching: 19-22
5. Saul escapes death and Barnabas recommends him to the church: 23-27
6. The church has rest: 28-31
7. Peter preaches in Lydda: 32-35
8. Peter heals Tabitha in Joppa: 36-43

### CHAPTER 9 DEFINITIONS

1. pricks 5: sharp sticks
2. forthwith 18: immediately
3. hither 21: here
4. assayed 26: intended
5. palsy 33: uncontrollable shaking
6. almsdeeds 36: good works
7. upper chamber 37: upstairs bedroom

**CHAPTER 9:** It's hard to imagine a man hating the Gospel and the church as much as Saul of Tarsus did. He later said of this time in his life, "*For ye have heard of my conversation (manner of life) in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it*" (Galatians 3:1). **If a man such as this could become a Christian, anyone can.**

The great light Saul saw on the road to the city of **Damascus** (about 150 miles north of Jerusalem) was probably the shining glory of God. Out of the light, Jesus spoke to him saying he shouldn't persecute the church because in so doing he was persecuting Christ himself (3-5).

Saul was on the ground (4,8), because he must have been walking. Many today say he was riding an animal, but that is only opinion. **No animal is mentioned in these verses!**

In Damascus, a godly Christian named **Ananias** was told by the Lord to go and find Saul in Judas' house on the street called Straight. The Straight Street is the oldest street still being used in the world. Ananias found the blind and praying Saul, laid his hands upon him, healed him and then baptized him.

Paul later said what Ananias told him: "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16).

Paul immediately began to use his considerable talents for the Lord and "*confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ*" (22). We must all use our abilities to their fullest when we become Christians by serving Christ in the church.

We can understand why the Christians were afraid of Saul (26) because of his fierce reputation and former hatred of the church. But good Barnabas recommended Saul to the church so that Saul could continue his strong preaching. He must have been some preacher because when he preached, people wanted to kill him (23,24; 29)!!

The rest of chapter 9 (32-43) concerns Peter's activities in **Lydda** where he healed a man named **Aeneas** and his activities in **Joppa** where he brought **Tabitha** (Dorcas), a fine godly Christian woman, back from the dead.

**So-called "miracle workers" today cannot bring people back from the dead because there are no apostles living today to give them that power.** These miracles caused many to believe on the Lord (42) and Peter stayed in Joppa in the house of Simon, a tanner.

UNDERLINING FOR CHAPTER 9: 4, why persecutest thou me?... 6, what thou must do... 7, seeing no man... 8, led him by the hand... 12, that he might receive his sight... 15, all of verse... 18, arose and was baptized... 22, confounded... 25, down by the wall in a basket... 26, afraid of him... 30, Caesarea...Tarsus 34, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole... arose immediately 40, opened her eyes... 42, many believed on the Lord

#### CHAPTER 10 EVENTS

1. An angel appears to Cornelius: 1-8
2. Peter's vision on the housetop: 9-18
3. Peter journeys to Cornelius house in Caesarea: 19-29
4. Cornelius tells of his vision: 30-33

#### CHAPTER 10 DEFINITIONS

1. Centurion 1: Roman commander of 100 soldier
2. Italian band 1: a special elite force of soldiers
3. Sixth hour 9:12:00 noon
4. Trance 10: Sleep like state
5. Fowls 12: birds
6. Thrice 16: three times
7. Gainsaying 29: arguing
8. Quick 42: the living
9. Circumcision 45: here refers to the Jewish people

**CHAPTER 10:** The conversion of Cornelius is the record of the **first Gentile people** to ever hear the gospel.

In Joel 2:28, we read the prophecy which applies to this chapter: "*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.*" The **Jews** heard the gospel on the day of **Pentecost** (Acts 2) and now the **Gentiles** are going to hear the gospel and thus **fulfill Joel's prophecy** of "*all flesh*" hearing the gospel and being blessed by it. "**All flesh**" means **Jew and Gentile**.

Cornelius was an wonderful moral man, "*A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway*" (2). But, even in spite of his goodness, he **still** needed the gospel to be saved.

**Only people, good or bad, who have become Christians by obeying the gospel will be saved.** It was true in the New Testament days and it is just as true today.

Who was this angel that appeared to Cornelius? No one knows and no one can tell. If the Bible reveals something to us, we believe it; if it doesn't reveal it to us, we are not allowed to speculate, are we?

Whoever this angel was, he told Cornelius "*Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God*" (4) and he told him to send to Joppa for Peter who will "**tell thee what thou oughtest to do**" (6). Cornelius obeyed the angel and sent three men to bring Peter to Caesarea.

While Cornelius' messengers were traveling, Peter himself saw a vision from heaven, in which a great sheet was let down and it was filled with all kinds of living creatures. The voice said, "*Rise, Peter; kill, and eat*" (13), but Peter refused saying, "*Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean*" (14).

The voice then said, "**What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common**" (15) and then told Peter to go with the men who were waiting for him at the door. The three men told Peter about Cornelius (22) and the next day they went to Caesarea where Cornelius had gathered friends and family to hear what Peter had to say.

Cornelius told Peter of his vision (30-33) and the truth of Peter's own vision became very clear to the apostle. "**Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him**" (34,35). **Every person has the right to hear the gospel and become a Christian.**

As Peter preached, the Holy Spirit fell "*on all them which heard the word*" (44). The people who came with Peter were astonished "*because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (45). This must have been the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit because "*...they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God*" (46).

Peter did the same thing with these Gentiles as he did with the Jews in Acts 2:38. He asked, “*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*” (47) Then, “*he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*” (48).

There is no contradiction in the Bible. Ephesians 4:5 teaches there is “*one baptism*”, yet the household of Cornelius received this tongue-speaking measure of the Holy Spirit before they were baptized in water.

Do we have two baptisms here and are we to be baptized in water and the Holy Spirit today? Not at all. Today, there is only one baptism and that is water baptism. Peter and the people who came with him were astonished, meaning this was not a common thing. The answer is quite simple: This occasion is indeed the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy that God would pour out his spirit upon “all flesh” (Acts 2:17) – Jews received it on the day of Pentecost and Gentiles received it here at the household of Cornelius. It is not right to contradict what the Bible says in Ephesians 4:5 and teach people today that there are two baptisms. There is only one and that is why Peter “*commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*”

UNDERLINING FOR CHAPTER 10: **2**, devout...feared God...much alms...prayed to God always **4**, a memorial before God **6**, oughtest to do... **9**, sixth hour (noon) **15**, all of verse... **26**, I myself am also a man... **34**, all of verse... **43**, all of verse.... **47**, **48**, all verses

#### EVENTS IN CHAPTER 11

1. Peter is criticized for going to Cornelius’ house: 1-3
2. Peter tells of the conversion of the household of Cornelius: 4-18
3. The gospel begins its spread to the Gentile world: 19-21
4. Barnabas and Saul begin work among the Gentiles from Antioch: 22-26
5. The disciples are called Christians first in Antioch: 26
6. The Gentile Christians send money to the brethren in Judaea: 27-30

#### CHAPTER 11 DEFINITIONS

1. rehearsed 4: made a report
2. bade 12: gave directions
3. shewed 13: showed clearly
4. cleave 23: stick with
5. Antioch 26: Antioch of Syria

## LESSON TWO: ACTS CHAPTERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE

**CHAPTER 11: Jerusalem** was the main city from which the gospel went to the Jews and in chapter 11, we are introduced to the city of **Antioch** in Syria which was the main city from which the gospel went to the Gentiles. This chapter is very important for two reasons:

- (1) it teaches how sometimes even Christians can be very prejudiced, but when they find out the truth about a matter, they accept God’s will and
- (2) for the first time in the history of man, the name “Christian” was given to followers of Christ.

Some Jewish Christians in Jerusalem criticized Peter for going into the home of a Gentile and teaching the gospel (1-3) and by this showed their prejudice against the Gentiles.

Peter stopped this criticism by saying his command came from heaven to teach that even Gentiles, the hated ones, were to receive the gospel. To the Jewish Christians’ credit, they glorified God and said, *Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life*” (18).

Today, we know that The gospel is for all, rich and poor, black and white, men and women, Jew and Gentile. Paul said this in Galatians 3:27,28: “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” . **We become “one” with Christ when we are baptized into Christ** (Read again Romans 6:3,4).*

When people hear the pure Gospel of Christ, they'll be like the people of Antioch who, after they had heard about the Lord Jesus (20), obeyed the gospel "*and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord*" (21). This is the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission as recorded in Luke 24:47: "*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*".

The word "Christian" appears only three times in the New Testament: **Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28** and **1 Peter 4:16**.

"*And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch*" (Acts 11:26). Why first in Antioch? The answer is very simple when we read Isaiah 62:2: "*And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name*". Gentiles "saw the righteousness" of God (heard the gospel) in Acts 10 and the "new name" which the mouth of the Lord shall name came immediately following in chapter 11.

This new name is "Christian" and it is the heaven-sent name which followers of Christ should wear today. **No other man made name is right or permitted.** "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). What religious name do you wear? It **must** be Christian – and Christian only!

Sometimes being a Christian causes suffering, but 1 Peter 4:16 teaches: "*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*"

Isaiah 62:2 speaks of kings seeing the glory of God. This prophecy was also fulfilled in Acts 26:27, 28 when Paul preached before King Herod and said: "*King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? [this could be a direct reference to Isaiah 62:2] I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*".

It is important for followers of Christ to call themselves by the name "Christian." **(1)** it is from heaven and not from men, **(2)** it glorifies Christ every time it is spoken and not a manmade church, and **(3)** there is salvation in no other name.

**Let all followers of Christ be Christians and Christians only by obeying the gospel of the Christ.**

UNDERLINING FOR CHAPTER 11: **2:** contended... **4,** by order... **9,** all of verse... **10,** three... **15** at the beginning... **17,** like gift... **18,** repentance unto life... **19,** none but unto the Jews only... **20,** preaching the Lord Jesus, **21,** great number... **23,** the grace of God...cleave unto the Lord... **26,** a whole year...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch... **28,** Agabus...dearth...Claudius Caesar...**29,** according to his ability... relief

**CHAPTER 12:** The first person to die as a "martyr" was Stephen in Acts 7. The second martyr was **James**, the brother of John, the two men whom Christ had nicknamed the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). He was also with Jesus, James and Peter on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1,2). James was part of what some call "Christ's inner circle" consisting of Peter, James and John. They all were especially close to the Lord.

#### EVENTS IN CHAPTER 12

1. Herod kills James: 1-2
2. Herod puts Peter in prison: 3-6
3. Peter is rescued and returns to Mary's house: 7-17
4. The death of Herod: 18-23
5. Continued growth of the church: 24,25

#### CHAPTER 12 DEFINITIONS

1. Herod: Herod Antipas, the grandson of Herod the Great
2. Unleavened bread: Passover
3. Quarterions: 16 soldiers
4. Smote: shook
5. Wist: knew
6. Forthwith: immediately
7. John Mark: the author of the gospel according to Mark
8. Damsel: girl
9. Keepers: guards
10. Chamberlain: in charge of Herod's house
11. Orastion: speech
12. Gave up the ghost: died

King Herod Antipas wanted to be popular with the Jews so he put Peter in prison after James' death, probably wanting to kill Peter as well. But an angel appeared to Peter and rescued him from being chained between two soldiers (6; 7,8). After he was let into Mary's house and astonished those who were gathered therein, (13-16), he told them of his rescue by the Lord from prison and then he said: "*Go show these things unto James, and to the brethren*" (17).

Since James, the brother of John, had just been killed, who was this **James**? He was probably the author of the book of James, whom Paul later identified as "*James, the Lord's brother*" (Galatians 1:19). The author of the book of Jude identifies himself as the "*brother of James*" (Jude 1), so it's a good conclusion to say that the New Testament books of **James** and **Jude** were written by **two blood brothers** of Jesus.

We are also introduced to **John Mark** (12) who went with Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey, but left them in chapter 13:3 to return to Jerusalem.

On the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take him with them again, probably because he was his **nephew** (Colossians 4:10), but Paul did not entirely trust him because he had abandoned them earlier.

#### EVENTS IN CHAPTER 13

1. Barnabas and Saul are called to go on the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey: 1-3
2. The false teacher Elymas, is struck blind: 4-13
3. Paul preaches in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia: 14-43
4. Paul and Barnabas announce they would go preach to the Gentiles: 44-52

#### CHAPTER 13 DEFINITIONS

1. Tetrach 1: Herod Antipas, who ruled a fourth of Judea
2. Fasted 2: Doing without food for a spiritual purpose
3. Synagogue 5: the worship place of the Jews
4. Subtily 10: Sneaky
5. Pervert 10: Change in a bad way
6. Season 11: A period of time
7. Exhortation 15: An encouraging word or teaching
8. High arm 17: God's power
9. Justified 39: Made right
10. Shook off the dust 51: Change directions; have nothing to do with
11. "Ye that fear God": Gentile converts or those who met with

Who was this Mark? He was Barnabas' nephew, because Paul also calls him: "*Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him*" (Colossians 4:10). The phrase "*touching whom ye received commandments*" means that this young man, Mark, was most probably also the author of the second book of the New Testament, the gospel of Mark.

The death of King Herod was horrible. Because of his arrogant pride (23), he was eaten up of worms and died (23). **Thus died a man who sought popularity rather than truth.** Thus died a man who murdered one of the finest and godliest men found in the New Testament.

UNDERLINING FOR CHAPTER 12: **2**, James the brother of John... **3**, pleased the Jews... **5**, prayer...without ceasing... **7**, light shined...smote Peter... **9**, a vision... **11**, expectation... **12**, Mary...John...Mark... **14**, knew Peter's voice...**15**, mad...his angel... **17**, James...another place... **19**, keepers... put to death... **20**, Tyre...Sidon nourished by the king's country... **22**, voice of a god and not of a man... **23**, smote him...gave not God the glory...eaten of worms... **24**, grew... multiplied... **25**, fulfilled their ministry...John...Mark

## LESSON 3: ACTS CHAPTERS 13 AND 14

**CHAPTER 13:** We now enter one of the most exciting times in church history: the **first of Paul's great missionary journeys**.

The Great Commission was given by Jesus in **Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:47,48, John 20:21-23** and the charge to the church was to "*preach the gospel to every creature.*" This marvelous thing happened in the first century because Colossians 1:23 reads: "*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*"

At Antioch there were **prophets/teachers** who edified (taught and encouraged) the church: Barnabas, Simeon, the Nigerian, the Cyrenian Lucius and Manaen. While they taught the people and fasted, the Holy Spirit told them to send Barnabas and Saul on the first missionary journey.

John Mark went with them (5) while they preached. At **Paphos**, they were met an enemy of the truth named Elymas, whose other name was BarJesus. "Bar" in front of a name means "son of." BarJesus was the "son of Jesus" but he surely wasn't kin to Jesus Christ! He fought Barnabas and Saul when Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the gospel. Elymas was struck blind by Paul for a while because he opposed the truth. Sergius Paulus believed the truth in spite of Elymas' objections. For the first time, Saul is called Paul here in Paphos (9)

**NOTICE:** In verses 7-12, the message they preached is called the **word of God (7), the faith (8) the right ways of the Lord (10) and the doctrine of the Lord (12)**. All these phrases refer to the same thing: the truth of the gospel.

At another Antioch, the one in **Pisidia**, Paul again preached in the Jews' synagogue (16-41). **He preached the same message that all the other apostles and preachers in the New Testament preached. Today, preachers who teach different messages than the gospel truth are false teachers and must be taught the right ways of the Lord.**

What a sermon Paul preached! The next sabbath (Saturday) the whole city came to hear the gospel, which made the Jews very jealous. They fought Paul and Barnabas and Paul told them that he would go from here on out to the Gentiles with the gospel. This news made the Gentiles happy (48), with the result that the gospel was preached in that entire region (49). Paul and Barnabas continue on their journey.

**UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 13:** 2, ministered....fasted...the work 5, the word of God..false prophet....Barjesus 7, the word of God 8, the faith 9, who is called Paul 10, right ways of the Lord 12, the doctrine of the Lord 14, synagogue...sabbath 16, ye that fear God 17, high arm 18 forty years 20, judges....four hundred and fifty years 21, Saul 22, David...a man after mine own heart 23, seed...Jesus 24 baptism of repentance 26, feareth God 28, no cause of death 30, all 31, Galilee to Jerusalem 33, Psalm 2:7 34, no more to return to corruption...Isaiah 55:3 35, Psalm 16:10 38, the forgiveness of sins 39, not be justified by the law of Moses 41, despisers...wonder...perish 44, whole city 45, envy...contradicting...blaspheming 46, judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life 48, ordained to eternal life 49, all

#### CHAPTER 14 EVENTS

- 1-5: Preaching and opposition in Iconium
- 6,7: To Lystra and Derbe
- 8-18: A lame man is healed and Paul preaches to these pagan people
- 19,20: Paul is stoned by Jews from Antioch and Iconium, but is not killed
- 21-24: Backtracking to check up on the new Christians
- 25-28: Visiting more churches

#### CHAPTER 14 DEFINITIONS

- 1. Evil affected: opposed to
- 2. Apostles: messengers
- 3. Garlands: rows of flowers
- 4. Stoned: killing a person with large rocks
- 5. Ordained: appointed
- 6. Rehearsed: told

**CHAPTER 14:** The persecution continues.

**Sometimes the meanest people are those who are religiously wrong.** It was true in the new Testament day and it is true today.

Paul and Barnabas were persecuted by wrongfully motivated religious people because those religious Jews did not want to hear the truth about Christ. They even threw large rocks at Paul and tried to kill him by “stoning” him.

**People are the same today when the truth is taught, but Christians must follow the example of Paul and never stop preaching the gospel.**

When Paul healed the lame man in **Lystra**, the people called him **Mercury** and called Barnabas **Jupiter** because they felt for sure that the “gods” were visiting them. Paul preached to them about the one true God who created and organized the natural world to help mankind.

After finishing the work in Lystra, they retraced their steps and returned to **Antioch** where they told of the results of their journey, that the Gentiles were receiving the gospel.

**NOTE:** Verses 16,17 read: *“Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”*

Before Jesus came into the world as the world’s savior, God allowed the Gentile nations to “do their own thing” under the Patriarchal Age. The beauty of nature and the organization of nature are testimonies to the fact that a Supreme Being, God, does indeed exist. *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork”* (Psalm 19:1).

#### CHAPTER 15 EVENTS

- 1-3 Judaizing teachers threaten the church
- 4-29: The Jerusalem conference about Judaizing teachers
- 30-35: Back to Antioch of Syria
- 36-41: Paul and Barnabas disagree about who to take with them on the second missionary journey and go their separate ways

#### CHAPTER 15 DEFINITIONS

- 1. Circumcised: removal of the foreskin of an 8-day baby boy; a sign of being a Jew
- 2. Dissension: argument, debate
- 3. Sect: a religious organization
- 4. James: the Lord’s brother
- 5. Simeon: Simon Peter
- 6. Residue: remainder
- 7. Sentence: judgment; decision
- 8. Fornication: sexual immorality
- 9. Subverting: misleading
- 10. Epistle: letter
- 11. Contention: disagreement
- 12. Confirming: strengthening

These things point to God, but **God can only be understood through the teachings of the Bible.** John 5:39 teaches: *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 14: **1**, multitude **2**, minds **3**, boldly **8**, cripple...never had walked **9**, faith to be healed **12**, Jupiter...Mercurius (Mercury) **14**, apostles **15**, all verse **17**, all verse **19**, supposing he had been dead **22**, confirming...exhorting...the faith...we (Luke was with them) **23**, all verse 27, rehearsed all that God had done with them....door of faith

#### LESSON 4: ACTS CHAPTERS 15 and 16

**CHAPTER 15:** Judaizing teachers disturb the church; the decision made about this matter and the beginning of the second missionary journey.

Many religious Jews had become Christians, but they still had a problem with God loving the Gentiles. Today, they are called “**Judaizers**” because they added something to the gospel (v 1) by saying a Gentile had to become a Jew (be circumcised) first before he could be a Christian.

Many Christians journeyed to Jerusalem to discuss the problem and heard Peter speak of the conversion of Cornelius (see Acts 10) and heard Paul and Barnabas speak of their work among the Gentiles.

Who was this “**James**” who spoke next? It was not the brother of John because he was killed by Herod back in chapter 12. Paul said in Galatians 1:18,19: “*Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.*” (Please see page 7)

We know that Jesus had four brothers; **James, Joses, Simon and Judas** (Matthew 13:55). This James must have been the blood brother of Jesus and since the author of the book of Jude says “*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James*”, it must be that both James and Jude were blood brothers of Jesus. The result of this discussion was a letter written to the Gentile churches to stay away from worshiping idols, from fornication, from strangled things.

As they were planning the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew, John Mark with them, but Paul disagreed, stating that Mark had left them in Pamphylia and shouldn't go with them. They disagreed so strongly that “*the contention was...sharp between them*” (v 39), so Paul took Silas and Barnabas took Mark.

This is a great lesson for us today. Christians can disagree, even to the point of doing it strongly, but never to the point of discontinuing fellowship. Paul and Barnabas disagreed, they argued, they went their separate ways, but **they doubled the work of the Lord** in so doing. That's the way to handle disputes.

UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 15: **1**, manner of Moses **2**, apostles and elders **4**, church, apostles and elders **5**, Pharisees which believed **8**, knoweth the hearts **9**, no difference **11**, all verse **13**, James (the Lord's brother; author of the book of James) **16-18**, all verses (Amos 9:11) **20**, idols...fornication...things strangled...blood **22**, the whole church **24**, gave no such commandment **26**, hazarded their lives **31**, rejoiced **35**, teaching and preaching **37**, John...Mark **39**, all verse

#### CHAPTER 16 EVENTS

1-5: Derbe and Lystra visited: Timothy  
6-10: Trip to Troas: 6-10  
11-40: the gospel is preached in Europe  
14-15: Conversion of Lydia  
16-18: Paul heals the damsel  
19-34: Conversion of the jailer  
35-40: Paul leaves Philippi

#### CHAPTER 16 DEFINITIONS

1. Jewess: a female Jew
2. Wont: something accustomed
3. Seller of purple: royal purple color came from a special shellfish
4. Divination: telling the future
5. Soothsaying :Fortune telling
6. Magistrates: city officials
7. Serjeants: soldiers in charge
8. Privily: in private

### Chapter 16: The missionary journey continues

At Derbe Paul first meets Timothy, a fine young man who was a product of a mixed marriage (Jew and Greek), and who then fully went with Paul as the gospel was preached. We don't know Timothy's age, but he must have been younger than Paul. I Timothy 1:2 speaks of Timothy as being Paul's “son in the faith.”

Paul circumcised Timothy because it was a wise thing to do. He did not circumcise him to become a Jew, but to make it easier for Timothy to teach the gospel to Jews.

The Holy Spirit revealed by a vision of a man from Macedonia that they were not to go back into Asia (Minor), but to go into Macedonia (Europe).



One of the first places they visited was the city of Philippi, where they met Lydia, a seller of purple who was from the city of Thyatira. Lydia was a businesswoman and had her own house in Philippi. Her job was a seller of purple. **“Purple”** refers to a special and rare dye from shellfish used to color the robes of royal people. Lydia’s heart was opened by the power of God’s gospel which resulted in her baptism. **People today whose heart the Lord opens through the gospel are also eager to be baptized and become Christians.**

Also, in Philippi, a young woman had a demon which caused her to see things other people don’t see. Many people made money off this hellish trait. She said in verse 17, *“These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.”* Paul cast out the evil spirit which resulted in his being cast into jail.

At midnight, an earthquake opened the prison doors and the jailor prepared to kill himself because Roman law said if a jailor lost his prisoners, he would lose his own life. Paul stopped him and the jailor asked, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* **No doubt this man knew what the demon-possessed girl had said about Paul teaching the way of salvation and wanted to know more.**

So Paul began with the basic thing this pagan man needed and said, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* (v 17). They **taught** the jailor the word and based on this true **knowledge**, he **washed their stripes and was baptized**. Many believe the jailor was saved when he believed and did not have to be baptized. This idea cannot be true because it contradicts Mark 16:16, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”* **Jesus did not give one command and Paul another one.** This jailor was told to **believe**, was **taught** the word of God, showed his **repentance** by washing their wounds and then was **baptized** for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 16: **1**, Timotheus (Timothy) **2**, well reported **4**, ordained of the apostles and elders **5**, established...increased **9**, Come over into Macedonia and help us **12**, Philippi...chief city **14**, seller of purple....heart the Lord opened **15**, baptized **16**, divination **17**, all verse **18**, name of Jesus Christ...same hour **25**, prayed...sang **26**, immediately...opened...loosed **29**, called...trembling...fell **30-32**, all verses **33**, washed baptized **34**, rejoiced...believing **37**, beaten...casts...thrust **40**, seen...comforted...departed

#### CHAPTER 17 EVENTS

1-9: Paul preaches in Thessalonica  
10-14: Paul preaches in Berea  
15-34: Paul preaches in Athens

#### CHAPTER 17 DEFINITIONS

1. Consorted: joined with
2. Lewd; baser: rascals
3. Security: a bribe
4. Idolatry: worship of idols in pagan religion
5. Epicureans: philosophers who believe “anything goes”
6. Stoics: Philosophers who believe in “self-discipline is all”
7. Areopagus: Mars Hill; the highest point in Athens
8. Superstitious: religious
9. Haply: if possible
10. Offspring: children
11. Winked at: overlooked
12. Mocked: made fun of
13. Areopagite: an official of Mars Hill

### LESSON 5: ACTS SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN

**CHAPTER 17:** Persecution while preaching in Thessalonica and Berea. Preaching in Athens.

When Paul reached Thessalonica and preached the gospel, some Jews believed, but many devout Gentiles (Greeks) also believed (v 4).

These devout Greeks were possibly **proselytes** (converts) to the Jewish religion or they may have been people like Cornelius in Acts 10 who found the moral teachings of Judaism to be superior to the current pagan teachings.

The devout Greeks’ belief in Christ and his resurrection (v 3) caused the unbelieving Jews to become so jealous that they enlisted rascals who helped them cause a riot. This hatred caused Jason and other Christians to be brought before the magistrates for examination (vv 5-9).

**When the simple and powerful truth is taught today, many react in the same way.** Preaching the gospel really “turned the world upside down” (v 6).

Paul is sent to Berea (v 10) where “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*” (v 11). Whenever anything is taught in your church, check out the scriptures daily to see if they are from God or from some man.

Persecution from the Thessalonian Jews continued (v 13), so Paul went to Athens, Greece, (v 15) and while in Athens Paul was moved to teach the Athenians in his famous Sermon on Mars Hill (vv 16-31). Mars Hill was also called the Areopagus and was the highest point in Athens. Today the Parthenon stands on Mars Hill. Paul’s sermon contains these points:

1. He first argued with the Jews about why they didn’t address this massive idolatry (vv 16,17).
2. His sermon was the result of questions asked by philosophers called **Stoics** and **Epicureans**. The Stoics taught that self-discipline in mind, body, soul and emotions was the most important thing in life. The Epicureans taught that a person could do anything he wanted to do, no matter what it was, as long as it didn’t infringe on others. (This philosophy is abundant in America even today.)
3. Paul says he will speak to them of the Unknown God, whose altar they had built (vv. 22,23).
4. He describes God as having made the world and dwells not in manmade temples (v 24) and does not need man’s worship since he is the origin of all things (v 25).
5. His statement about God making all men of one blood reminds us that anyone today can receive a blood transfusion from another human being, red, yellow, black or white.
6. God gave the world its natural organization (v 26) so that people would seek the Lord and find him (v 27).
7. Without God we do not exist (v 28) and just because he is invisible we should not represent him by idols (v 29).
8. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (v 3).

UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 17: **2**, manner was **4**, devout Greeks **5**, envy **6**, turned the world upside down **11**, all verse **16**, wholly **18**, Stoics...Epicureans...babblers...Jesus...resurrection **22**, superstitious (religious) **23**, unknown God...ignorantly **24**, not in temples made with hands **26**, one blood **27**, seek...feel...find **28**, all verse **30**, all verse **31**, by that man

#### CHAPTER 18 EVENTS

- 1-9: Paul preaches in Corinth
- 12-17: Appearance before the deputy of Achaia, Gallio
- 18-23: Paul preaches in Ephesus, then in all of Galatia and Phrygia
- 24-28: Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos

#### CHAPTER 18 DEFINITIONS

1. Claudius: emperor of Rome
2. Pressed in the spirit: urged on
3. Insurrection: rioting
4. Drave: drove out
5. The baptism of John: John the Baptist’s baptism which would be replaced by baptism in the name of Christ
6. Expounded: to speak in depth
7. Henceforth: from here on out

#### CHAPTER 18: Paul preaches in Corinth and goes to Ephesus

Paul then went from Athens to Corinth where he preached for a year and a half while living with Aquila and Priscilla who were also tentmakers as was Paul (vv 1-3). As was his custom he taught at the Jews’ synagogue that Jesus was the Christ (vv 4-5). He was where he was supposed to be and today, on Sundays, we should be where we are supposed to be – worshipping God in spirit and truth at church services.

Athens was the intellectual center of Greece and Corinth was the commercial center.

When Paul preached Christ to the Jews, they became furious and even blasphemed (v 6). Blaspheming means to speak against things that are holy. Paul preached the holy gospel truth unto them and they refused to hear it.

Paul then told them *“your blood be upon your heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles”* (6). This is why Paul is sometimes called “The Apostles to the Gentiles” because sometimes very religious people don’t want to hear the truth of God.

But “many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized” (8) and after that the Lord appeared to Paul in a dream to encourage him.

People who **honestly hear the word** will believe and will be baptized (Mark 16:15,16). The furious Jews even brought him before the local Roman deputy (the local governor), but Gallio drove them away because he could see they were hateful and jealous of Paul (14-16).

Paul then went to Ephesus where he preached in the synagogue and left Aquila and Priscilla while he strengthened the churches in Galatia and Phrygia. Ephesus was a large city whose most famous attraction was the temple of the goddess Diana and the Ephesians were very proud of this temple and of their goddess.

While Paul was gone from Ephesus, Apollos, a powerful preacher (v 24), came to Ephesus and preached the way of the Lord, but he only knew about the baptism of John the Baptist. Aquila and Priscilla privately taught him the complete Way of the Lord and he continued his preaching, but this time he was preaching a full gospel. **When preachers learn the right ways of God, they should change and preach only the truth.**

UNDERLINING IN CHAPTER 18: 2, Claudius 3, tentmakers 5, Timotheus (Timothy) 6, opposed....blasphemed 8, Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized 10, I have much people in this city 13, persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law 19, left them there 21, if God will 23, strengthening the disciples 24, Apollos....Alexandria (in Egypt) 25, instructed...fervent...things of the Lord.....knowing only the baptism of John 26, boldly...expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly 27, helped them much which had believed through grace 28, mightily convinced...Jesus was Christ

THIS CONCLUDES LESSON BOOKLET NUMBER TWO  
OF THE BOOK OF ACTS  
YOUR TEST QUESTIONS ARE ON  
THE NEXT FEW PAGES  
Please answer the test questions and  
send them back in the  
self-addressed stamped envelope  
Please do not send the entire booklet. It is yours to keep

**TEST QUESTIONS  
THE BOOK OF ACTS  
Part Two**

**LESSON ONE: Chapters 9 and 10**

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Cornelius was a private in the Roman army                                    | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Damascus is 150 miles north of Jerusalem                                     | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. The Bible has contradictions in it   | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Only people who have become Christians by obeying the gospel<br>can be saved | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. There is only one baptism and that is water baptism                          | T _____ F _____ |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

- When Saul was on the way to Damascus to persecute Christians **A** He saw a great light and fell to the ground **B** He saw Jesus who spoke to him **C** both of these
- The angel who appeared to Cornelius was **A** Gabriel **B** Michael **C** We don't know
- Before Saul of Tarsus became a Christian, he **A** Loved the Christians **B** Let the Christians alone **C** Hated the Christians
- The one who was told "What God hath cleansed, that call n ot thou common" was **A** Paul **B** Barnabas **C** Peter
- The one who was told "Why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins" was **A** Paul **B** Barnabas **C** Peter

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

- In Damascus, a godly Christian named \_\_\_\_\_ was told by the \_\_\_\_\_ to go and find Saul in Judas' house on the \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_
- So-called "miracle \_\_\_\_\_" today cannot bring people back from the \_\_\_\_\_ because there are no \_\_\_\_\_ living today to give them that \_\_\_\_\_
- Cornelius was "a \_\_\_\_\_ man, and one that \_\_\_\_\_ God with \_\_\_\_\_ his house, which gave much \_\_\_\_\_ to the people and \_\_\_\_\_ to God alway" (Acts 10:2).
- Acts 10:34: "Of a truth I \_\_\_\_\_ that God is no \_\_\_\_\_ of persons, but in \_\_\_\_\_ nation he that \_\_\_\_\_ him and worketh \_\_\_\_\_, is accepted with him"
- Saul of Tarsus later was renamed \_\_\_\_\_ the apostle

**LESSON TWO: Chapters 11 and 12**

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. Acts 11:26: "And the \_\_\_\_\_ were called \_\_\_\_\_ first in \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Three reasons it is important for Christ's followers to be called Christians are: 1) it is from \_\_\_\_\_ and not from \_\_\_\_\_, 2) it glorifies \_\_\_\_\_ every time it is \_\_\_\_\_, 3) there is \_\_\_\_\_ in no other \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Galatians 3:27: "For as \_\_\_\_\_ of you as have been \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ have \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ. There is neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor Greek; neither bond nor \_\_\_\_\_, there is neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_; for ye are all \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus."
4. The word "Christian" appears \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Let all \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ be \_\_\_\_\_ and Christians \_\_\_\_\_ by obeying the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

1. The main city from which the gospel went to the Jews was **A** Jerusalem **B** Antioch **C** Rome
2. The main city from which the gospel went to the Gentiles was: **A** Jerusalem **B** Antioch **C** Rome
3. The disciples were called Christians first in **A** Jerusalem **B** Antioch **C** Rome
4. The word "Christian" appears in the Bible **A** Three times **B** Four times **C** None of these
5. Followers of Christ should be **A** Jews **B** Christians only **C** Catholics

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

1. The "James" in chapter 12 was the brother of the Lord T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_
2. Followers of Christ can call themselves by any name they choose T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_
3. John Mark, Barnabas' nephew, wrote the gospel according to Mark T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_
4. Salvation is only in the name of Christ and Christian T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_
5. When honest people hear the gospel of Christ, they become Christians T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON THREE: Acts 13 and 14**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

1. "Bar" in front of a Jew's name means **A** Don't let him come close **B** Son of... **C** nothing
2. God can only be understood **A** Through the teachings of the Bible **B** Through our own emotions **C** Through our own thoughts
3. Jesus had four human brothers: **A** Peter, Paul, James, Jude **B** James, Joses, Simon, Judas **C** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
4. In their missionary journeys, Paul and Barnabas were mainly persecuted by **A** The Romans **B** The Gentiles **C** The Jews
5. In the first century the gospel **A** Was preached to Jews only **B** Was preached to every creature under heaven **C** Was preached to Gentiles only

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

- Colossians 1:23): "If ye continue in the \_\_\_\_\_ grounded and \_\_\_\_\_ and be not moved away from the hope of the \_\_\_\_\_, which you have heard and which was \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ creature which is under heaven."
- The apostle Paul \_\_\_\_\_ the same \_\_\_\_\_ that all the other apostles and \_\_\_\_\_ in the New Testament preached.
- Psalm 19:1: "The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the firmament showeth his \_\_\_\_\_."
- Like Paul and Barnabas, Christians can \_\_\_\_\_, even to the point of doing it \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of discontinuing \_\_\_\_\_
- In chapter 13, the gospel is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, the \_\_\_\_\_, the right \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Paul was a very mediocre and boring preacher          | T _____ F _____ |
| God can be understood through the teachings of the Bible | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Jesus had four sisters and also some brothers         | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. The Jews called what we call Saturday the "sabbath"   | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Paul and Barnabas never spoke to each other again     | T _____ F _____ |

**LESSON 4: Chapters 15 and 16**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

- In Lystra, Paul was called by the Roman name of which god? **A** Hera **B** Jupiter **C** Mercury
- Paul's son in the faith was **A** Peter **B** Timothy **C** Peter **D** Barnabas
- In Philippi, Paul baptized which two people? **A** Matthew and Mark **B** Barnabas and Silas **C** Lydia and the jailor
- Which person in Philippi said, "these men are the servants of the most high God" **A** Lydia **B** Paul **C** The demon-possessed girl
- Christians in the first century who wanted to go back to the law of Moses were called **A** Romans **B** Judaizers **C** Rabbis

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

- Paul and Barnabas disagreed and went their \_\_\_\_\_ ways, but they \_\_\_\_\_ the work of the Lord.
- The Philippian \_\_\_\_\_ was told to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus Christ and after he believed, he was \_\_\_\_\_
- "\_\_\_\_\_ " refers to a special and rare \_\_\_\_\_ gotten from shellfish.
- Paul was told to go into Macedonia by a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Holy Spirit.
- The Christian in Jerusalem who suggested a letter be written to Gentile Christians was \_\_\_\_\_.

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Timothy was younger than Paul                               | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. A Roman jailor would lose his life if he lost his prisoners | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. Both the Philippian jailor and Lydia were baptized          | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Paul cast out at least one demon in Philippi                | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. Timothy's father was a Roman                                | T _____ F _____ |

**LESSON FIVE: Chapters 17 and 18**

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. Acts 17:11: "These were more \_\_\_\_\_ than those in Thessalonica, in that they \_\_\_\_\_ the word with all \_\_\_\_\_ of mind and searched the \_\_\_\_\_ daily, whether those things were so."
2. Preaching the gospel really \_\_\_\_\_ the world \_\_\_\_\_ down.
3. People who \_\_\_\_\_ hear the word will \_\_\_\_\_ and will be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Acts 17:30: "And the times of this \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ at, but now \_\_\_\_\_ all men \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_."
5. In Athens, Paul preached his famous sermon on \_\_\_\_\_.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

1. Paul's occupation was A Mechanic B Tentmaker C Scholar
2. Today the \_\_\_\_\_ stands on Mars Hill in Athens.
3. Apollos knew only the \_\_\_\_\_ of John the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ were philosophers who believed in total self-discipline and the \_\_\_\_\_ were philosophers who believed in doing anything one wanted.
5. In his sermon, Paul describes \_\_\_\_\_ as having made the world and dwells not in manmade \_\_\_\_\_ and does not need man's \_\_\_\_\_ since he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized            | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Paul left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus                              | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. People in Thessalonica searched the scriptures daily                   | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. God made all men of one blood  | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. Many people today don't like Bible truth and get mad when they hear it | T _____ F _____ |