

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 1 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 1 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Who, What, Whom, When, Where, Why?

1. Who's Theophilus? Why is he getting this letter?

a. Theophilus — meaning: lover of God. A Christian, probably a Roman, to whom Luke dedicated both his Gospel (Luke 1:3) and the Acts of the Apostles (1:1). Nothing beyond this is known of him. From the fact that Luke applies to him the title “most excellent”, the same title Paul uses in addressing Felix (Acts 23:26; 24:3) and Festus (26:25), it has been concluded that Theophilus was a person of rank, perhaps a Roman officer.

2. Who's Luke?

a. Paul the Apostle calls Luke the “beloved physician” (Col. 4:14). Luke was a companion and fellow worker of Paul (2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 24).

i. **Colossians 4:14** Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Philemon 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

3. What former book? Ever read the two together?

a. How does this greeting fit with Luke 1:1-3?

i. **Luke 1:1-3** Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

b. How does this book fit in with his first book?

i. From Luke to Acts...

Lets read **Luke 24:35-52**

4. When?

a. Matching the following Events and Dates

_____ Paul's Trial	A. 64 AD
_____ Nero's Persecution	B. 70 AD
_____ Paul's Death	C. 68 AD
_____ Destruction of Jerusalem	D. 62 AD

5. Why do you think Luke wrote to Theophilus?

B. vs 2 - In what 2 books is the ascension of Jesus described?

1. What were the instructions Jesus gave to the apostles?
2. How did the apostles get to be apostles?

C. vs 3 - What were some of the "convincing proofs?"

1. **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

D. vs 4 - Did the apostles follow Jesus' command? How do you know?

1. What does Jesus say the Father promised?
 - a. So...how do you obtain the Holy Spirit?

2. How do you obtain Salvation? Ephesians 2:8-9

- a. **Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.
- b. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Notice any recurring themes here?

E. vs 5 - John's baptism vs Baptism into Jesus.

1. What does it mean to be baptized into Messiah Jesus?

- a. **1 Corinthians 3:16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
- b. **John 14:15-17** "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

F. vs 6 - Why do you think the apostles asked Jesus the question in vs 6?

G. vs 7 - What was Jesus saying by His answer in verse 7?

1. How does verse 7 relate to Jesus' answer to Peter's questions about the future in John 21?

- a. **John 21:18-22** I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" 20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

H. vs 8 - Baptism into Christ brings what?

1. Power to do what?
2. How does verse 8 outline the structure of the book of Acts?
 - a. Witness in _____ Acts 1:1 to 8:4
 - b. Witness in _____ Acts 8:5 to 12:25
 - c. Witness to the _____ Acts 13:1 to 28:31

I. vs 9 - Do you think this was literal or figurative?

1. How does this verse, and verse 11, relate to the Second Coming of Jesus?

J. vs 10 - How would you describe "looking intently?"

1. Why do you think these men appeared suddenly rather than gradually?

K. vs 11 - Where did Jesus ascend to?

1. **Daniel 7:13-14** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:26-27 "But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

L. vs 12 - From what spot on the earth did Jesus ascend into heaven?

1. How far was a "Sabbath day's walk? About 3/5 of a mile? or About 6/10 of a mile?

M. vs 13 - How many apostles were present in the upstairs room?

N. vs 14 - Who else was gathered there?

1. What were they doing there?

2. Why does the church of Rome not like this verse?

O. vs 15 - In what days?

P. vs 16 - What was Peter's view of the recorded words of David?

1. What was Peter's view of prophecy? Do you share that view?

Q. vs 17 - How could Judas be "one of our number" and yet be the "son of perdition" and condemned to perish eternally?

1. Are there some like Judas among us today?

R. vs 21 - What were the requirements for being an apostle?

S. vs 26 - How could such a chance, happenstance selection process please the Lord?

T. vs 26 - For 1,630 points...why was it important to have 12 apostles as relates to the Heavenly Jerusalem?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 2

B. Prayer

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II. Acts 2 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 2 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Why were they all together? Who's they? How long had they stayed together?

B. vs 2 - Paint the picture of what went on...

C. vs 3 - ...each of them...What was true of all who were there and all who were filled?

D. vs 4 - Who did the filling? Who is the Holy Spirit? Who does the Holy Spirit fill?

1. **1 Corinthians 3:16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

E. vs 4 - Who did what? Who spoke? How did they speak? Who gave them the ability? Why?

1. Where can I learn more about “tongues?” I Corinthians 14

F. vs 5 - How did these Jews hear what was going on in this place?

G. vs 6 - Why did a crowd gather? What did they actually hear?

H. vs 7 - What does this question imply?

I. vs 8 - What was spoken?

J. vs 9 - 11 - Why were all the nations itemized & named?

K. vs 12 - Either they're drunk or...

L. vs 14 - Here's the written explanation from God...Why from Peter's mouth?

M. vs 15 - Not drunk...

N. vs 16 - What did Joel actually say?

1. **Joel 2:28 - 3:2** `And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. 30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 32 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. 3:1 `In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

O. vs 17 - What will God do? What will happen?

1. What does “all people” include?

2. What does “prophesy” mean?

3. Who gives visions & dreams? Always?

P. vs 18 - Who receives the Spirit? Who will prophesy? Why will they prophesy?

Q. vs 19 - Where do Joel's words start...and end?

R. vs 21 - Who will be saved?

S. vs 22 - How did God accredit the authority of His Son?

1. Who does signs, and miracles, and wonders?

T. vs 23 - Was Jesus murdered? Why was he killed? Was God dismayed?

1. **John 10:17-18** The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

U. vs 24 - Who gives life? Is there agony in being dead?

1. Question: Why was it impossible for death to retain its hold on Jesus?

V. vs 25 - Why can you remain unshaken?

1. Why does Peter use this quote from David here?

W. vs 31 - David was speaking of...

X. vs 34 - How was Peter contrasting David w/ Jesus?

Y. vs 36 - Lord and Christ. What's the difference?

Z. vs 37 - Why were people “cut to the heart?”

AA. vs 38 - When “cut to the heart,” how should people respond?

1. Are these two actions separable?
2. If you do this, what will happen?

AB. vs 39 - Who is this promise for? Who exactly?

AC. vs 40 - Can you say “Peter preached a long, long time?”

1. How was his message universal?

AD. vs 41 - Who was baptized? How many?

AE. vs 42 - What did they do when they were saved?

1. Why did they do these things? Do you do these things?

AF. vs 43 - Why were signs & wonders done by the apostles? How did God “accredit” Jesus authority?...the apostles?

AG. vs 44 - 47 - How did the believers live in those days?

1. What were the “Church Growth Principles” they utilized?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 3

B. Prayer

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B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 3 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 3 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - This book is called...

1. ...and Peter and John are...

2. vs 1 - Does this wording sound like a mythological allegory or like a documentary, history book?

a. "going up"...north, south, up?

B. vs 2 - Why do you suppose the beggar begged at the temple courts?

C. vs 3 - Same request as normal...different requestees.

D. vs 4 - Why do you suppose it was important that we know that Peter and John looked straight at the man and that the man looked straight at them?

E. vs 6 - What spiritual gift was in operation here?

1. For the sake of the kingdom, do you think silver and gold or Peter's spiritual gifts were primary?

2. How 'bout with you?

3. What is your Spiritual Gift? How are you using your particular Spiritual Gift?

4. Why the statement, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth..."

- E. vs 7 - Do you think Peter knew the exact medical diagnosis or condition that kept this man from walking? Was that knowledge prerequisite?
- G. vs 8 - "Jumped to his feet." "Walking and jumping" - What about muscle atrophy over the years?
1. Do you really think it will be hard for God to recreate our bodies in the resurrection?
- H. vs 9 - How do you think the man was praising God? Are you giving praise to God for the deliverances in your life? How can you cultivate this attitude of praise giving?
- I. vs 10 - Why do you think the Lord allowed him to sit at the temple gates for a long time in his crippled condition?
1. What purpose do your afflictions serve? In theory, how long should an affliction last before deliverance?
- J. vs 11 - What was the man doing to Peter and John. Why is this response typical when dealing with "faith healers?"
- K. vs 12 - How does Peter begin a "reality check" here?
- L. vs 13 - The Reason for this healing and the Message. What was the purpose of this healing? When you ask for healing, for what purpose do you request it?
1. How did Peter deflect glory that came as he used his God-enabled spiritual gift?
 - a. How do you redirect glory to God when you are spoken well of?
 - b. Have you ever been guilty of absorbing glory vs reflecting glory?
 - i. **Numbers 12:3** Now the man Moses was very humble. More than any man who was on the face of the earth.
- M. vs 13 - Why the long intro? ...God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers...
1. When you just say God, what happens?
 2. How do you "locate" and "specify" the God of the Bible in space and time? Is this important to do in these days?
- N. vs 13 - Why did Peter focus on the people's dastardly deeds, (sins) here?
1. Should you ever focus on people's dastardly deeds when you're witnessing to them?

O. vs 14 What is Jesus called here? Was there any question in Peter's mind that Jesus was "God in a body?"

P. vs 16 - How does this verse tie in with Philippians 2?

1. Was there confusion in Peter's mind about the source of the man's healing? Have you ever seen a humble Christian take glory for the exercise of their spiritual gift? How do you keep from it?

Q. vs 17 - If the people acted and sinned in ignorance, why then did they need to repent in vs 19? Can't we just plead ignorance?

1. What do you think will be the most common defense used on the day of Judgement? Will it work?

R. vs 18 - How important is fulfilled prophecy in God's economy?

S. vs 19 - What happens when we repent? What is repent? How is repentance different from confession?

1. Repent and do what? What comes after repentance?

T. vs 21 - Where is this Jesus now? When will he return?

U. vs 22 - What must people do with God's prophets? If you do not, what happens?

V. vs 25 - What is the covenant we are heirs of? Who was the covenant with?

1. How are all people on earth blessed by Jesus?

W. vs 26 - What servant? Has your life been blessed by "turning from your wicked ways?" How?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 4

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 4 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 4 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - What 3 groups came to talk with Peter and John

1. Where were Peter and John and what were they doing?

B. vs 2 - What motivations do you think caused them to be “greatly disturbed” at the apostles teaching?

C. vs 4 - What message did the “many” hear? What message is to be delivered today.

1. **Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2. btw...who believed?...

who believes the message when it is delivered?

a. **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

b. **Ephesians 1:11-14** In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ

when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

3. The number of men grew to about five thousand...How does the church grow?

a. **Acts 2:46-47** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

D. vs 7 - By what power or name do you do what you do?

1. Do we truly operate by the Holy Spirit or do we generally live under our own power and direction?

E. vs 8 - Did Peter need to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” again?

F. vs 10 - Another reminder of their guilt. How many times do you have to tell people they're guilty?

G. vs 12 - What other “exclusive” verse does this verse remind you of?

1. How can Christianity ever “get along” with other world religions?

H. vs 13 - What enables “unschooled, ordinary men” to do extraordinary things for the kingdom of God?

1. Would this also apply to anyone in this room?

2. What is your dependency on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

I. vs 14 - How effective were the miraculous gifts in establishing authority and authenticity of the early church?

J. vs 15 - 18 - Who's agenda were the High Priests and rulers trying to advance here?

1. Agenda check. Whose agenda are you trying to advance?

K. vs 19 - 20 - What is the role of civil disobedience in the life and witness of the church?

1. Under what convictions and circumstances would you disobey the governing powers?

L. vs 20 - Witnessing out of experience. Can you stop telling what has happened to you?

M. vs 24 - 30 - How would you summarize this corporate prayer?

N. vs 28 - Was Jesus accidentally murdered? Was God's will really accomplished or not? Could Jesus have lived a “long, full” life if the circumstances had been different?

1. **John 10:14-18** “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father —and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life —only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

O. vs 29 - You ever pray like this? Do you really expect God to use you? Really?

P. vs 31 - Hadn't they already been filled with the Spirit? What does this mean?

Q. vs 32 - 37 - What was the attitude of the early church re: material things? Why?

1. What was the result of their actions?

2. Can the church act like this today? Does it?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 5

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 5 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 5 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - also sold...? How'd they get the property?

How'd you get any property you have?

1. Right attitude toward property

a. **Acts 4:34-37** There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

b. **Hebrews 10:32-36** Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

c. **Philippians 3:7-9** But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ —the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

B. vs 2 - What's the difference between Ananias & Sapphira's gift and those in chapter 4?

1. Motive: **Proverbs 21:2** All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

C. vs 3 - How did Peter know what had been done?

1. How does Satan fill a heart here?
2. Personhood of the Holy Spirit?

D. vs 4 - Deity and Trinitarian role of the Holy Spirit

E. vs 5 - Understatement of the year?

F. vs 6 - Do you think the "young men" who came forward were impacted just a little bit by all this? What do you think they thought?

G. vs 8 - Deceiving Men vs Deceiving God. Have you ever tried?

H. vs 9 Young men, here we go again!

I. vs 12 - Who performed many miraculous signs and wonders? What does a "sign" do or signify?

J. vs 16 - How many of those brought for healing were healed?

1. Do you find a difference between the miraculous gift of healing and the healing done by God through the prayer of believers and the church?

K. vs 17 - If the Lord looks upon the heart, what did He see in the Sadducees?

L. vs 19 - What is the agenda of an angel?

M. vs 21 - Where did the High Priest and his associates begin their day? In the temple?

N. vs 23 - Again, the role of miraculous signs...

O. vs 26 - What does this show about leadership's ability to bamboozle those they lead?

P. vs 28 - Why did they order not to teach in Jesus name?

Q. vs 29 - How does this verse fit into the Christian life today?

1. What is the role of civil disobedience?
2. When is disobedience to a church leadership warranted today?

R. vs 30 - 32 - How do you like Peter's "non-confrontational" style?

1. When is this warranted vs when is caution warranted? How do you know?

S. vs 32 - What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is "given" to followers of Jesus?

1. What does Peter's statement imply about those to whom he is speaking?

T. vs 33 - When their authority was challenged, what emotion was produced?

1. Does this bring about rage in you?
2. What is the root of this kind of rage? P_i_e

U. vs 34 - The voice of reason and wisdom.

1. What was Gamaliel's point?
2. What characterizes wisdom. Can this be said of you?
3. How have your responses to situations changed as you have aged?
4. What role does patience play in the working out of life's affairs?
5. How patient do you suppose One who is eternal would be?

V. vs 38 - 39 - So...in church matters, when do you step in and when do you let things run their course?

W. vs 40 - Even persuaded, they had them flogged. Could the apostles have been discouraged by the physical flogging?

1. How did they respond? How would you respond?

X. vs 42 - Did the apostles obey God or men?

Y. vs 43 - If you are to effectively proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, what must be proclaimed first?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 6 & 7

B. Prayer

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C. Prayer

II. Acts 6 & 7 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 6 & 7 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - ...when the number of disciples was increasing. How many would there have been?

1. Hellenists vs the Hebrews. Complaining in the church or legitimate issue?

2. How do You handle complaints? Humility and the heart that hears others.

3. Remember the tie with James 1:27?

4. What is our / your role in benevolence? What drove the Christians in Acts 2?

a. **Acts 2:44-45** All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

B. vs 2 - The Apostles (twelve) gathered the disciples...what's the difference between them?

1. The priority of calling delegates tasks.

a. Are you doing what the Lord has called you to do? Have you gotten sidetracked?

- b. What do you feel is the Lord's true priority schedule for your life right now...not last year...not 10 years ago, but right now?
 - i. List 3 important things to apply yourself to this year.
 2. Priorities and gifting in church leadership. Do you see problems / opportunities here?
- C. vs 3 - How are men know to be full of the Spirit and wisdom?
- D. vs 4 - What were the top 2 priorities of the twelve?
1. Prayer we know but what is the "ministry of the word?"
- E. vs 5 - Do church proposals have to please the whole group? Is unanimity required for church decisions? What are some of the principles regarding church decision making?
1. How does a person become known as "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit?"
 2. Can you name anything these 7 men have in common?
- F vs 6 - What is the purpose of "commissioning" men and women for acts of service?
- G. vs 7 - Why do you think the word of God spread? (check out verse 2)
1. What do you think caused a large number of priests to be obedient to the faith?
- H. vs 8 - Were NT signs and wonders limited to the apostles? What was the common denominator when signs and wonders were evident?
- I. vs 9 - "Opposition arose..." Is that kind of unusual?
- J. vs 10 - The best hope of Speech 101 class. How does Luke 12:11-12 tie in here?
1. **Luke 12:11-12** "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."
- K. vs 11 - 12 - Power brokers, liars, half truths and the twisting of the facts.
1. Pursuing your self-centered agenda and purpose vs seeking God's way and His kingdom.
 - a. How do you keep from being caught up in personal pursuits? How does Matt 6:33 factor in here?

L. vs 13 - Do you think Stephen remembered Jesus' words in Matthew 5?

1. **Matthew 5:11** "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
2. Have you ever had anyone wrongly accuse you or lie about you? What does it take to stand when you are falsely accused?
 - a. What did it take for Joseph to stand?...for Daniel?...for....

M. vs 14 - Did Stephen probably say what they claimed he said in vs 14?

1. Did Stephen have a choice in relating Jesus' words?
2. Do you have a choice, or any options in relating God's word to the culture surrounding you?
3. How does this relate to the controversial issues of our day? What is our charge?

N. vs 15 - Why do you think Stephen was at peace in this difficult situation?

1. What is your source of peace when difficulty comes?

O. vs 7:2 - What was the question? What was the answer? Why?

1. What were some of Stephen's purposes in delivering the next 48 verses?

P. Observations on verses 2 - 29

Q. Observations on verses 30 - 50

R. vs 51 - 55 - How is it that Stephen was "full of the Holy Spirit" when he has just delivered a tirade against the Sanhedrin?

1. What's the difference between mean-spirited accusations and what Stephen has done here?
2. Do you tend to talk first and think later or vice-versa? How 'bout Peter?

S. vs 52 - In what sense was Jesus murdered? How does that fit with John 10?

1. **John 10:14-18** "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father —and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life —only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

T. vs 55 - 56 - Did Stephen actually see this or was it an apparition? Is this really the case?

U. vs 58 - Why do you suppose Saul is mentioned here? Can you put this together with Paul's later writings? What role did these days play in Paul's later perspective? You ever feel the same way?

V. vs 59 - Last words = God's words | How is it possible to respond this way? Could you?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 8

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 8 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 8 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 & vs 3 - How do you think God used Paul's B.C. days to remind him of Grace?

1. **1 John 3:15** Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

2. **Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

3. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

4. **1 Timothy 1:12-16** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners —of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

B. vs 2 - Why did people scatter? Would you scatter? What would you do if a great persecution broke out? How would you decide what to do?

C. vs 3 - What country does this remind you of in history? With what people group?

D. vs 4 - Persecution = _ r _ a c _ _ n _

1. Preached what word? What word was there at this time?

E. vs 5 - How did he go down when Samaria is north of Jerusalem?

1. What did Philip proclaim in Samaria?

2. What are we to proclaim in our world?

F vs 6 - When they saw _____, they did what?

G. vs 12 - Philip's message was simple

1. #1 -

2. #2 -

3. What was the response to Philip's preaching?

H. vs 13 - Simon...saved or not?

I. vs 15 - 17 - Belief, Baptism, Baptism with the Spirit...in what order & why?

J. vs 18 - Simon's motives...how pure?

1. What was Peter's cure to impure motivations?

K. vs 25 - What did Peter and John do while in Samaria?

L. vs 26 - Always obey an angel?

M. vs 29 - The Holy Spirit prepares the way...with what?

N. vs 30 - Easy leading question.

1. How do you engage in a witnessing situation like this?

O. vs 31 - How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?

1. **Romans 10:12-17** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

2. **Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

P. vs 34 - It doesn't get any more straightforward than this...

Q. vs 35 - Witnessing 101 - begin where with the person you're witnessing to?

R. vs 36 - Philip's message apparently included Jesus call to do what?

S. vs 39 - What do you suppose the Eunuch was thinking right about now?

T. vs 40 - Where was Azotus? and where was Caesarea?;

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 9

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 9 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 9 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - What is Paul's spiritual condition here?...the status of his heart.

1. What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

B. vs 2 - What was the religious / political authority of the High Priest?

1. Why were they called "followers of the Way"

C. vs 3 - How far was Damascus from Jerusalem? 216 km or 134 mi?

D. vs 4 - Why did Paul fall to the ground?

1. How did Paul hear a voice (not a vision) if God does not have a body?

2. What does this verse say about the spiritual intimacy of Jesus with those he has redeemed with his blood?

a. David's words in **Psalm 69:9** for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

E. vs 5 - Who was it who met Paul on the road to Damascus?

1. What are the typical roles of the Trinity?

E. vs 6 - Pretty direct and to the point? Does God give orders or answers here?
Typically?

1. What is the order of events here?

G. vs 7 - What do you think the men looked like who were with Paul?

H. vs 8 - Would you rather be spiritually blind and physically sighted or physically blind but spiritually sighted?

1. Why do you think God took Paul's sight away for three days?

I. vs 9 - Do you think there is any significance of three days?

1. When's the last time anything was spiritually significant enough for you to fast? Too long?

J. vs 10 - A disciple all the way up in Damascus. About when was this chronologically?

K. vs 11 - What was Paul's response to this traumatic time in his life?

L. vs 12 - How does God know what "vision" Paul has had?

M. vs 13 - Discussion time. Uh...Lord...are you sure?

1. Has the Lord ever clearly asked / told you to do something you were not entirely keen on doing? What was it? How did it come out?

2. What is the role of self-preservation in the life of the disciple? Man's perspective / man's wisdom vs God's call.

3. What if, after God had called Ananias, he had been killed by Paul or his cohorts?

N. vs 15 - What was God's response to Ananias' hesitations?

1. Who chose Paul to be his instrument?

a. In what sense was Paul chosen? Did Paul understand that God chose him? **Ephesians 1:4**

b. What is an instrument? What things are true of an instrument? Do you want to be the instrument or the one who wields the instrument? How do you live?

2. What was Paul chosen by God to do?

a. What are you chosen by God to do? Are you doing it?

O. vs 16 - What would you do if God showed you how much you must suffer for His name?

1. Does God fore-ordain suffering? Why?

P. vs 17 - ...with fear and trembling.

1. "Brother Saul" - unlikely but true.
2. Who sent Ananias to Paul?
3. Paul was to see again. How do you think he saw the world differently than before?
4. How do you see the world differently than before you believed?

Q. vs 18 - What was Paul's first act after his salvation?

1. What was the Ethiopian Eunuch's first act after his salvation?
2. Why? ...and what about you?

R. vs 19 - During his first days with the disciples, what do you suppose they talked about?

S. vs 20 - First Clue as to the topics of discussion from their time together.

1. Where did Paul preach that Jesus was the Son of God? What had the Jewish response been when Jesus claimed to be the Son of God in John 8:58?
 - a. **John 8:58-59** "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

T. vs 21 - No wonder they were astonished when they heard Paul. Is there anyone in your experience whom you were astonished to hear they had become a Christian?

U. vs 22 - How do you suppose Paul "proved" that Jesus was in fact the Messiah? How would you "prove" it?

V. vs 23 - What motives drive a group of "religious" men to conspire to murder someone?

W. vs 25 - Who lowered Paul down over the city wall in a basket? How 'd he get "followers?"

X. vs 26 - Can you blame the disciples in Jerusalem for being skeptical? What does it take for you to believe someone is a born-again Christian?

1. If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Y. vs 27 - What did Barnabus and Saul do in following years? What was their relationship? How many times do you think the scripture refers to these two as "Paul and Barnabas or Barnabas and Paul?"

1. Do you remember Barnabas from earlier in Acts? What did he and Paul have in common?

a. Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)

2. How does someone “preach fearlessly” in today’s world?

Z. vs 29 - This makes three times that different groups tried to do what? Why?

AA. vs 30 - What was the solution of the brothers when people wanted to kill Paul?

1. Why do you suppose they sent him off to Tarsus?

AB. vs 31 - What was characteristic of the “time of peace” the church experienced? Would you say the church in America has enjoyed a “time of peace?” How have we responded and why?

AC. vs 32 - See the topic break here? What /who’s the emphasis now?

AD. vs 34 - What was Peter’s emphasis in healing? Did Peter have the gift of healing? Do people today claim to have the “gift of healing?” What’s the difference?

AE. vs 35 - Does all always mean all?

AF. vs 36 - How was Dorcas characterized, known?

1. How do you think people would characterize you if they were writing about you?

AG. vs 38 - Why would the disciples send for Peter?

AH. vs 39 - Why was this just like a funeral of today?

AI. vs 40 - What do you suppose Peter’s prayer was like? How would you pray for God to bring someone back to life?

AJ. vs 42 - What became known all over Joppa? Why do people come to the Lord when miracles happen?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 10

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 10 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 10 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - What was a centurion? What was Cornelius' job like?

B. vs 2 - How was Cornelius described? How would you be described? Write out how you would like to be described here.

1. What does devout mean?

C. vs 3 - Another Angel! What is the role of angels? How 'bout angels today?

D. vs 4 - What is it about Cornelius' life that "came up" before God?

E. vs 7 - Cornelius trusted these men to go for him, who would you choose? Have you let them know how much you value their friendship?

F. vs 9 - How do you suppose Dr. Luke knows these details about the trip and these occurrences?

G. vs 13 - 14 - What is implied about the animals on the sheet?

H. vs 15 - How can you apply this principle to life other than food?

I. vs 16 - Why do you think this vision happened 3 times?

J. vs 19 - Peter was meditating on what God had shown him? What is the role of meditation in your life? What should it be? On a scale of 1 to 10, how "contemplative" are you?

- K. vs 20 - The Spirit says "I have sent them." How have you seen the Spirit providentially orchestrate events in your life?
- L. vs 22 - If you were asked by 3 strangers to go talk to someone, what would you think? How do you tell the difference between kooks and legitimate messengers?
- M. vs 24 - What kind of house and lifestyle would you say Cornelius had? Can you picture it?
- N. vs 28 - How did Peter know this was the meaning of the vision in verse 19?
- O. vs 27 - Is it against God's law for you to associate with worldlings? When is it profitable? When is it dangerous or unprofitable for you? How do you relate to non-Christians?
- P. vs 30 - Suddenly...an angel. Never gradually, why?
- Q. vs 33 - Who do you consider a trustworthy messenger of the Lord in your life? Someone you would hear and trust to relate God's will for your life?
- R. vs 34 - What does this verse say and mean in context? What have you heard people try to make it say?
- S. vs 35 - How does this verse relate to verse 34?
- T. vs 36 - Why do you think Peter assumed that Cornelius knew the "good news of peace through Jesus Christ?"
- U. vs 39 - Was Jesus murdered?
- V. vs 40 - 41 - Who and how many people did Jesus appear to after his resurrection? Why?
1. **1Corinthians 15:3-6** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.
- W. vs 42 - Who will be your judge on judgement day?
- X. vs 43 - How can Peter say the prophets testify?
1. What does it mean to "believe on Jesus?"
 2. If you "believe in him" you receive what?
 3. If you think you can lose this salvation, what does that say about "forgiveness of sins" and your justification?
- Y. vs 46 - What was the evidence that the Holy Spirit had come upon them?

Z. vs 45 - Why were they astonished that the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles?

1. Is there anyone you would be astonished at?

AA. vs 47 - Again, what place was given to baptism?

AB. vs 48 - Jesus Only Baptism? What does this indicate?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 11

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 11 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 11 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Again...where is Judea? Remember the expanding rings of influence in Acts 1:8?

1. **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

B. vs 1 - Who heard? What did they hear?

1. What does it mean that the Gentiles had "received the word of God?"

a. How is "receiving the word of God" different than merely "hearing the word of God?"

C. vs 2 - "circumcised believers" defines what group?

1. What do you suppose their motives were in criticizing Peter the Apostle here?

2. What are your motives when you criticize other Christians and their actions?

a. To what should all of our actions / lives be compared?

D. vs 3 - What would be a modern day equivalent to doing what Peter did?

1. What caused Peter to go to the house of “uncircumcised men?”
2. When would it be right? When would it be wrong?

E. vs 4 - What is the apostle Peter doing here?

F. vs 5 - “I saw a vision” - How much credence do we lend to statements like this today? Why? What has changed?

1. Does Peter relate the vision exactly as it was related in Chapter 10? Any changes or additions?

- a. **Acts 10:11-16** He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. 13 Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” 14 “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” 15 The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” 16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

G. vs 12 - How do you suppose the Spirit communicated with Peter? How do you hear from the Spirit? What would convince you that the Spirit is leading in a particular situation?

1. Did Peter take anything along with him as a “security blanket?”

H. vs 13 - Typically, when an angel gives a message, how specific is it?

I. vs 14 - How important are these words to Cornelius? What would you do if you heard these words? How important is this end result to you? Are you doing all that Cornelius did to ensure that all of your household hear this message?

J. vs 15 - How did the Holy Spirit come on them at the beginning?

K. vs 16 - Can you see how some would relate the “filling of the Spirit” with miraculous events?

L. vs 17 - How does a person receive the Holy Spirit? Who gives the Holy Spirit?

M. vs 18 - What does this response tell you about their trust in God, their humility and their deference to the Providential, Wise, and Sovereign ways of God?

1. Has God ever done things differently than what you expected? How did you respond?

N. vs 19 - The Gospel was going out only to whom?

O. vs 21 - What is the key element for success when you take the good news of salvation to others?

P. vs 23 - What do you suppose convinced Barnabas that what he saw was evidence of the Grace of God?

1. Would Barnabas see it here? In us?
2. What was the message of Barnabas to the believers?

Q. vs 26 - What did Barnabas and Saul do in Antioch?

1. btw - When you see a church named Antioch Christian...what do you suppose the leadership is saying?

R. vs 28 - What role were these prophets playing? Are there prophets like this today? Why or why not?

S. vs 29 - 30 - How did the disciples give of their resources? To what cause did they give?

1. Where did their gift go? Where does it go in this church?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 12

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 12 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 12 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - How did you “belonged to the church” in those days? How do you “belonged to the church” in these days?

B. vs 2 - Who was this James? Is the book of James his writing?

1. How many of you could have been call a Son of Thunder?

a. What happened?

1Cor. 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

C. vs 3 - Was Herod a politician, a statesman, or a king?

1. When is the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

D. vs 4 - Where was Peter taken and how was he being guarded? What kind of prison would this be equivalent to today?

1. Why do you think he was holding him for public trial?

E. vs 5 - How does this describe you...us...your life.

1. Why did the church pray? Why do you pray?
2. Did the church know what was going to happen? Do you?
3. Where was the church's trust? Where is yours?

F vs 6 - Why does the Lord sometimes rescue at the last minute?

1. Was Peter securely imprisoned and held?

G. vs 7 - Suddenly...never gradually...!

1. List the supernatural events that took place here. Define supernatural. Is supernatural a big deal for the Lord?
2. How would you describe Peter's wake up call?
3. The chains and the imprisonment were a big deal to Peter and the church, were the chains a big deal to God?
 - a. Have any "chains" in your life and times?

H. vs 8 - How does an angel speak? Does this really mean speak?

1. Why didn't the guards wake up? Why didn't they hear?
2. Why did the angel have to tell Peter to get dressed and get his coat on? Ever wake up a kid?

I. vs 9 - Peter thought he was _____ ?

J. vs 10 - What do you suppose Peter was thinking here?

1. Suddenly...

K. vs 11 - Have you ever look back and seen how the Lord rescued you from a situation that was bleak? Even bleaker than you thought?

L. vs 12 - The roots of a contemporary phrase? "When this had dawned on him..."

1. How do you get the Lord's words or the Lord's works to "dawn on you?"
2. The role of meditation, reflection in the life of the Christian man or woman.
 - a. What is the role of meditation in your life?
3. What is the role of prayer in the life of the church?

M. vs 13 -14 - Slapstick event #2

N. vs 15 - Have you ever responded like this when God answered your prayer?
What kind of attitude or expectation does this show?

O. vs 17 - Why do you suppose Peter left for another place?

1. What James was this? Wasn't James put to death with the sword in verse 2?

2. Does this add new meaning or perspective to James 1:2

a. James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

P. vs 18 - Why do you suppose there was "no small commotion?"

Q. vs 22 - Herod...Big Deal or Nothin Much?

1. Herod - struck down, eaten with worms, died...but what

2. Herod - Temporal / God's Word - Eternal

R. vs 24 - When does the word of God continue to increase & spread?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 13

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 13 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 13 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - "In the church at Antioch..." Could we also say there are prophets and teachers in the church today? In what sense?

1. **Ephesians 4:11-13** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

B. vs 2 - What is the role of fasting in your walk?

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to them?

2. How does this verse underscore the personhood of the Holy Spirit?

3. Who calls a man to the work of God?

C. vs 3 - Why do we put our hands on people?

D. vs 4 - Perspective Control - Who were these men sent on their way by?

E. vs 5 - describe what it meant for them to “proclaim the Word of God.”

1. What was it like for them to proclaim the Word of God in the Jewish Synagogue?

F. vs 6 - How do you determine when you have a “false prophet” on your hands?

1. What does “Bar-Jesus” mean?

G. vs 7 - Why do you suppose the scripture describes the proconsul as an “intelligent” man?

1. Do you find that “intelligent men” (by worldly standards) are not typically inclined to the things of God?

H. vs 8 - Did you have anyone in your life that tried to “turn you from the faith?”

1. What is their relationship with you today? ...with the Lord today?

I. vs 10 - 11 - Isn't it strange that Paul would speak this harshly to someone? Are there any other examples in scripture of speaking harshly like this?

1. Why the miracle of blindness? Why do you see no “apostolic miracles” like this today?

J. vs 13 - Which “John” was this? The Apostle?

K. vs 15 - How is it that the Jews in the Synagogue asked Paul to speak?

L. vs 17 - 23 - In this litany of God's works, how many does Paul list?

1. What is God's first highlighted work?
2. Which of the following is true of God's works today?
 - a. God chooses people to be His.
 - b. God makes people prosper.
 - c. God leads people out of life situations.
 - d. God endures the foolish conduct of people.
 - e. God overthrows nations.
 - f. God gives his people land / inheritance.
 - g. God gives Judges as leaders.
 - h. God gives Kings as leaders.

i. God brings a Savior, Jesus.

M. vs 25 - What work did John the Baptist complete?

1. Do you think John knew that Jesus was God in a body? Why?

N. vs 26 - "It is to you this message of salvation has been sent."

1. How was this message sent to you? Who sent it?

O. vs 27 - Does God use worldlings to accomplish His providential plans?

P. vs 29 - When they carried out all that was written about him...

1. What role does fulfilled prophecy play in undergirding your faith?

Q. vs 30 - Who raised Jesus from the dead?

1. **John 2:19-21** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

R. vs 31 - After his resurrection, Jesus was seen by how many people?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:3-9** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

S. vs 32 - What was their Good News?

1. How willing are you to tell people that God has brought a messiah?

T. vs 34 - 37 - How many times is it said that Jesus "did not see decay" after his death?

1. Why was this such a big deal? What does it mean, anyway?

U. vs 36 - "When David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep..."

1. How would you describe your purpose in this generation? Are you serving it?

V. vs 38 - Therefore...what is the core of the Good News Paul is presenting?

W. vs 39 - What is the result of the core message?

X. vs 40 - What is Paul's warning here? Do warnings like this affect you?

Y. vs 42 - What does this invitation tell you about the heart of those listening?

Z. vs 45 - What does the Jews response tell you about their hearts?

AA. vs 46 - 47 - What was Paul and Barnabas' response to the Jews attack?

1. Has God's salvation gone to the ends of the earth?

AB. vs 48 - What does it mean to be "appointed" to eternal life? How could this be fair? Are there some who are not "appointed?"

AC. vs 52 - After being forced from the region, what was the response of the disciples? Why?

1. How 'bout you?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 14

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 14 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 14 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - What was the message Paul & Barnabus brought to the Jews in the synagogue?

1. What does an effective presentation of the gospel sound like?

2. What is the balance of “effective speaking” along with the power of the Holy Spirit when someone believes on Jesus?

a. Can it be “effective speaking” alone?

i. **Romans 10:14-17** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

b. Can it be “ineffective speaking?”

i. **Exodus 4:10** Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

1 Corinthians 2:1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

ii. **1 Corinthians 1:17-20** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

3. Was the message of Paul & Barnabus different for Jews than for Gentiles?

a. What does this say about the message?

i. **Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

B. vs 2 - Why do people refuse to believe? Why did you? What changed you?

1. How do you “poison” someone else’s mind?

a. Has your mind ever been “poisoned” toward someone or something?

b. Have you ever “poisoned” someone’s mind?

c. How do you keep from poisoning?

C. vs 3 - What was Paul and Barnabas’ response to “mind poisoning?”

1. Who enabled Paul and Barnabas to do miraculous signs and wonders?

a. What was the specific purpose of the miraculous signs and wonders?

D. vs 4 - Does it sometimes seem that the entire world is divided? Is it?

E. vs 8 - 10 - How lame was this man? How did the man arise? When did he learn to walk?

F vs 11 - 19 - What do these verses tell you about the fickleness of people?

G. vs 12 - Why did they call Paul and Barnabus, Hermes & Zeus?

1. Any other examples of the kind of name confusion in history?

H. vs 14 - What was Paul & Barnabus' response to receiving false glory?

1. **Revelation 19:10** At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

2. **Revelation 22:9** But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

I. vs 15 - What argument, defense, description, or apologetic do Paul & Barnabus use to describe God to the mind of the non-believing people?

1. How important is the issue of creation in today's minds?

J. vs 17 - What is "Common Grace?" How do you think worldlings understand Common Grace?

K. vs 19 - Do you sense a transition here from the last verse?

L. vs 20 - What do you think happened when "the disciples had gathered around him?"

M. vs 21 - 22 - After a person is "won" to the faith, what comes next?

1. Did anyone encourage you to remain true to the faith?
Do you encourage young Christians?

N. vs 23 - The churches in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch shared what common structure?

O. vs 24 - 26 - How did they go to all these places? Did it cost money to sail?
To stay somewhere? How did they pay for things?

P. vs 27 - What is the role of "testimony" in the life of the church?

IV. Conclusion

A. Next Week - Chap 15

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 15 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 15 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - There will always be "some men..." Who are these men? Today?

1. What common doctrines did these men teach that are taught today?

2. What harm is it to teach a little false doctrine?

a. Play it out to its logical conclusion...

B. vs 2 - What is proper response of the church when false doctrine is taught?

1. Who is responsible to lead when such a situation exists?

2. Describe "sharp dispute and debate..." When is "sharp dispute" called for?

a. Over what teachings does "sharp dispute" arise vs when is "mild rebuke" called for?

C. vs 3 - When Paul & Barnabas told that the Gentiles had been converted, the brothers were glad. What does that say about the brothers?

D. vs 4 - Which church were they welcomed by when they reached Jerusalem?

1. What is the good and what is the bad of denominations today?

E. vs 5 - What teaching was espoused by some in the church at Jerusalem?

1. How could believers belong to the party of the Pharisees?

F. vs 6 - What was the response of the apostles and elders?

1. How does God lead in a group like this?

G. vs 7 - What was said in the “much discussion?”

1. What was the result of “much discussion?”
2. Was there unity or disunity?
3. What is Peter talking about? How did this decision come from his lips?

H. vs 8 - How did God show that he accepted the Gentiles?

I. vs 9 - Is there any distinction between Jew and Gentile in the matter of salvation? For all who are saved, how is their heart purified? Faith in what?

1. **Romans 4:15** because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

J. vs 10 - What does Peter acknowledge here?

K. vs 11 - Peter's Soteriology 101 - Peter plainly states that it is through what that we are saved?

1. Define grace. Contingent grace? Grace based on what?
 - a. **Question:** Did God's grace, through Jesus atonement on the cross, make it possible for us to be redeemed or did it redeem us?
2. Are Gentiles and Jews saved by the same mechanism, or different?

L. vs 12 - Again, the role of signs and wonders?

1. **Acts 14:3** So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

M. vs 14 - What does the following phrase indicate? "...by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself."

N. vs 17 - Who is it that seeks the Lord? All? Remnant? Gentiles who...

O. vs 18 - What does this phrase add to our understanding?

P. vs 19 - How difficult or easy should the call be? How easy or difficult did Jesus make it?

- a. Is there a difference between the call of the Gospel and the call of Discipleship?

Q. vs 23 - How did the Jerusalem leadership see themselves in relation to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia?

1. How do we see ourselves?

R. vs 24 - What happens when a church is indistinct or unclear about what it teaches?

S. vs 28 - How did they know it seemed good to the Holy Spirit? How do you know what seems good to the Holy Spirit?

T. vs 28 - 30 - Am I missing something? Have they just answered the question of how the law relates to grace in one sentence?

U. vs 30 - Gathered the church together...

V. vs 32 - What was the role of "Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets?"

W. vs 36 - What was Paul's heart re: nurturing the new believers? What is your heart re: nurturing the new believers of today?

X. vs 39 - What? Sharp disagreement among the saints? When did this start?

Y. vs 41 - How are churches strengthened? How are you strengthened?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 16

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 16 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 16 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - How do you suppose Paul & Silas knew about Timothy?

1. How old as Timothy?

2. How old do you have to be to be used by God?

B. vs 2 - If Paul & Silas came to Wichita, what would they hear about you?

C. vs 3 - What's with this? I thought Paul said circumcision is nothing? Why was this done?

D. vs 4 - What decisions? Given the recent Polling of Americans after the new Pope was chosen, how do you suppose Americans would respond to the mandates of church leaders?

1. What is the principle of authority shown here? w/ Paul? w/ the people?

E. vs 5 - How are churches strengthened in the faith and how do they grow?

F. vs 6 - Why in the world would the Holy Spirit restrict the preaching of the Word?

G. vs 7 - Who kept them from entering Bithynia? Anything unusual here?

H. vs 9 - Ever have visions? How & when do you trust visions?

I. vs 10 - How do you know Paul was a "visionary" leader?

J. vs 13 - Why did they go to the river, expecting to find a place of prayer?

1. Why do you suppose women are typically more spiritually sensitive than men in our culture?

K. vs 14 - How was Lydia a worshiper of God but not a believer?

1. What does it mean, "the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message?"

L. vs 15 - What was Lydia's immediate response after believing?

1. Large House? "Purple cloth has been bery, bery good to me."

M. vs 16 - What's with this? What kind of spirit could predict the future? What about a spirit of this or that in people?

1. It doesn't say "demon" or "evil spirit," could this be a good spirit?

- a. Are evil spirits the same as demons?

- i. **Luke 4:33** In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,

2. What about believers and possession?

- a. **1Cor. 3:16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

- 1Cor. 6:19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

N. vs 22 - Does this episode give you a good impression of the legal system in those days?

O. vs 23 - How could the Lord allow something bad like this to happen to Paul & Silas?

1. As you've matured in age and in the faith, how has your view of "bad circumstances" changed?

P. vs 25 - What was their response to the bad circumstances?

1. What's the balance between what is genuine and what is done for show? How do you balance?

Q. vs 26 - Coincidence earthquake? How does an earthquake make chains come off?

R. vs 27 - Why would the jailer have killed himself?

S. vs 28 - Why did the jailer know to ask Paul & Silas about being saved?

T. vs 31 - What was their reply to the question "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

1. How would various churches today answer this question?
2. What does it mean, you and your household?

U. vs 33- What was the jailer's immediate response?

V. vs 34 - What was the time period covered here?

W. vs 37 - What do you think Paul's personality type was?

1. Can the Lord use "pushy" people?
2. What's the difference between "pushy" and proud?

X. vs 40 - How do you suppose they encouraged the brothers?

1. What was Lydia's response after her salvation?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 17

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 17 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 17 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Why didn't they stop in Amphipolis and Apollonia?

1. Was this an oversight, an accident, or by Providential design?

2. Has God ever purposefully passed over people? Does He today?

3. What perspective does that bring to your own salvation?

B. vs 2 - Thessalonica was a larger city. How large was it?

1. How long did Paul stay there?

2. What is the role of reason in the Christian life?

a. What's the difference between reasoned conclusions and revealed truth?

b. Where was Paul's reasoning based?

C. vs 3 - What is apologetics?

1. Are you an apologist? A philosopher?

a. **1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

i. Does everybody have a reason for the hope that is in them?

2. What was the two pronged reasoning Paul used in Thessalonica?
 3. Paul's message that Jesus was the Christ was delivered to a primarily Jewish audience in a synagogue. How would the reasoning be different if he was speaking to non-Jewish hearers?
- D. vs 4 - Why were only "some of the Jews" persuaded? This was Paul preaching, why didn't everyone see the truth of what he was saying?
- E. vs 5 - Has jealousy ever prompted you to human effort? Why did the Jews feel jealousy instead of seeing heresy?
1. Have you ever been jealous for the glory of the Lord? His reputation?
- F. vs 6 - How do you think Jason felt? Would you be willing to suffer genuine distress to life or property for your allegiances?
1. "all over the world" - Did these troublemakers make it to America before Columbus?
 - a. How do you read & interpret the scriptures?
- G. vs 9 - Do you suppose they found a Bail Bondsman in the Thessalonica Yellow Pages?
- H. vs 10 - The Thessalonians were not receptive. What happened then? Did they ever get another chance? Guaranteed another chance?
- I. vs 11 - Why are so many SS classes named the Bereans?
1. Why were the Bereans so different from the Thessalonians? Remember Acts 16:14?
- J. vs 14 - Do you think Paul racked up a bunch of "Frequent Flier" miles or what?
- K. vs 15 - How big was Athens? What was it like? Reputation?
- L. vs 16 - What was Athen's religious persuasion?
1. What is Pluralism? Do you think Athens was pluralistic?
 2. What is pluralism's view of truth? What is Wichita's view of truth?
 3. How do pluralism and philosophy go hand in hand?
- M. vs 17 - Where did Paul take the message in Athens?
1. "those who happened to be there." Was their hearing of Paul accidental? How far does God's providence and foreordaining go?
- N. vs 18 - What is philosophy? Did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers pretty much share the same views or different? Were they biblically based thinkers?

1. What is the biblical view of the philosophies of men?
 - a. **Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
 2. What was Paul's message at Athens? Again? When do you stop preaching that same old message?
- O. vs 19 - 20 - Ever said 'sic em to a hungry dog?
- P. vs 21 - Were the Athenians seeking God?
- Q. vs 22 - Where did Paul begin with the Athenian philosophers?
1. Where should you begin with people?
- R. vs 23 - Have you ever looked carefully at someone else's "objects of worship?"
- S. vs 24 - Let's look into the words and outline Paul's essential message.
1. God is knowable...not unknown.
 2. God has created the world and everything in it.
 3. God is Lord/Sovereign of heaven and earth. He rules it. Now.
 4. God transcends this world. He doesn't conform to human temples.
 5. God does not depend on men.
 6. God has no needs.
 7. God is the source and sustainer of all.
 8. God began with Adam. We are Adam's descendents.
 9. God made the nations to populate the earth.
 10. God ordains when and where people are born and live. Exactly.
 11. God has considered man and his lostness.
 12. God is transcendent but also immanent...close to us.
 13. God is ultimate being. We derive our being from Him.
 14. God is not like your idols. You have followed gods who are not God.
 15. God is not now overlooking your former ignorance.
 16. God commands all, including you, to turn from your former beliefs.
 17. God has set a day of judgement...and a judge.
 18. God has verified this judge by raising him from the dead.

T. vs 32 - How would you describe their response?

U. vs 34 - "a few believed." Why in the world didn't everyone believe?

1. Is it the effectiveness of the presentation that persuades? What is it then?
2. Only a few are named. Ever wonder why you were named?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 18

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 18 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 18 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - After what? Where was Corinth and what was it like?

B. vs 2 - Aquila and Priscilla came to Corinth from where? How is it possible they were Christians?

C. vs 3 - Tentmaker? I thought Paul was an apostle. How do the roles of vocation and ministry combine in your life?

D. vs 4 - What is the role of reasoning in proclaiming the gospel to both "religious" and secular type people?

E. vs 5 - Why was Paul able to devote his full-time effort to preaching when Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia?

1. What is your role in providing support for tentmaking ministries like Paul's?

F vs 6 - Paul said to the Jews "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility." What did he mean by that?

1. **Ezekiel 33:1-9** The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: `When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to

warn the people, 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. 5 Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.' 7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. 9 But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

2. How does this passage apply to you?

3. What means did God use to direct Paul's ministry toward the Gentiles?
What means does God use to direct your life?

G. vs 8 - Why was it a big deal for Crispus to believe on Jesus?

1. This verse says Crispus and his entire household believed. Remember anyone else who believed along with their whole household?
 - a. What is the role of men as spiritual leaders in their household?
2. Why does "believed and were baptized" always seem to go hand in hand? How do many people perceive baptism today?

H. vs 9 - What does it mean to you that the Lord had to tell Paul "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."

1. What fears have made you "the silent type" when it comes to sharing with people about Jesus?

I. vs 10 - This verse contains the small phrase, "For I am with you." Is the Lord with you? How does this phrase affect your perspective on life?

1. **Isaiah 41:10-11** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. How many people lived in Corinth? How could it be said that the Lord had many people in this city? How is this like what God said to Elijah in 1Kings 19?
 - a. **Romans 11:3-5** “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? 4 And what was God’s answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.
 3. What city would you liken Corinth to today? Do you think the Lord has people there?
- J. vs 11 - How long did Paul stay and teach in Corinth? How did this influence the two letters Paul wrote to the Corinthians? Why would they heed his corrections? Whose corrections would you heed?
- K. vs 13 - The Jews attacked Paul for teaching people to worship God in ways contrary to the law. Alone, law hates grace. Why?
1. What does a “law based” system of religion breed?
 2. What does a “grace based” system of belief breed?
 3. What are the roles of law and grace when working together?
- L. vs 14 - What wisdom is there in what Gallio says?
1. What is the proper role of government in the Christian worldview?
 - a. What can government not do?
 2. btw...how would you like to have been Sosthenes?
- M. vs 18 - Why could Aquila and Priscilla accompany Paul on his journey?
1. How encumbered are you by the things of this world? Could you leave them if the Lord called you to go?
 2. Why do people make vows? What does a vow really indicate? Have you ever made a vow? Why?
- N. vs 19 - Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus. How do you know they were strong enough to stand on their own?
1. What role do strong couples play in the church today? Are you strong? Why or why not?

O. vs 20 - When the Ephesians asked Paul to stay and teach them, he said "No."
How could he refuse? Did he ever go back?

1. "I will come back if it is God's will." When is this phrase a "cop out" and when is it not?

P. vs 23 - As Paul traveled, he "strengthened the disciples." How did he do that?
How are you best strengthened?

Q. vs 24-25 - Apollos was from Northern Africa. How had he been instructed in the way of the Lord?

1. How do you get great fervor? How do you teach accurately?
2. Apollos had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. How did he get it? How do you get it? Do you get it?

R. vs 26 - How did Priscilla and Aquila invest in Apollos?

1. What difference did it make in his life?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 1:12** What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."
2. Anyone ever invest in your life? What difference did it make?
3. Do you have the time to invest in someone's life?

S. vs 27 - How is it that anyone "believes?" Where does the "believe" come from?

1. **Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

T. vs 28 - For Christian people, what tools are best used in public debate? Is this tool adequate?

1. **2 Timothy 3:15** and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 19

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. **Psalm 119**

B. The method of Bible study

1. **Observation**

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. **Interpretation**

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. **Application**

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 19 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 19 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Paul took the road through the interior of what?...and found disciples of who? What is a disciple? Are you a disciple? Of Whom?

B. vs 2 - How is it that they had not received the Holy Spirit when they believed?

1. What message had they heard? What had they believed in?

2. Had they heard the message of Acts 2:38?

a. **Acts 2:38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C. vs 3 - What was the difference between John's baptism and being baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus?

D. vs 4 - John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. Repentance from what?

1. What has to come before repentance?

2. How did you first gain the desire to repent from sin?

a. **John 16:7-8** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

3. What is the role of repentance in your life now? How is a repentant heart cultivated in a person? Do proud men often have a repentant heart?

E. vs 5 - They had been baptized into John's baptism, why did they need to be baptized into Jesus?

F vs 6 - Why did the Holy Spirit come upon them now and not before?

1. They spoke in tongues and prophesied. Do all?

a. What is meant by tongues here?

i. **Acts 2:6-11** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

b. What is meant by prophesied?

i. **Luke 1:67-73** His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— 72 to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

G. vs 8 - Why did Paul always speak boldly? What was Paul's goal in arguing persuasively in the synagogues?

1. Have you found that you always have to act like Paul?

2. What is the balance between "being who you are" around others vs striving with all that is in you?

a. **Colossians 1:28-2:1** We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

H. vs 9 - What causes a man or woman to become obstinate? Have you ever been obstinate? What changed you?

1. What is meant in this verse by “the Way?”
2. What was Paul’s response to their obstinance?

I. vs 10 - How long did Paul’s daily discussions go on at Ephesus?

1. How strong do you suppose the church was in Ephesus by the time Paul left?
2. What happened to the church in Ephesus?

a. **Revelation 2:1-5** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

J. vs 11 - Who did the extraordinary miracles mentioned in this verse?

1. Do men ever perform miracles? Why do some men want you to believe they are involved in performing miracles?
2. How do the following verses illustrate the role of miracles in Jesus’ ministry?

a. **John 10:24-28** The Jews gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

b. **John 10:38** But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

K. vs 13 - 17 - What do these verses tell you about evil spirits?

1. What lessons do you think the seven sons of Sceva learned?
2. The sons of Sceva thought they had a magic phrase. How do people try the

same thing today?

L. vs 16 - This man had an "evil spirit." Why is it that every time a demon is encountered in the bible, it is inhabiting a person or animal?

M. vs 17 - How fast do you suppose word traveled in those days?

1. Do you remember another instance where people were seized with fear and believed?

N. vs 18 - What brought people to confess their evil deeds? What brought you? What is the difference between confession and repentance?

O. vs 19 - What does this verse have in common with the smell of burning vinyl?

1. What did you ever do to illustrate that you were leaving your old life behind? Have you left your old life behind?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 20

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

- a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

- a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

- a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 19 - Personal Observation Time

- A. Read Acts 19 verbally
- B. Between-the-lines study
- C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

- A. vs 1 - Paul sent for the disciples at Ephesus and encouraged them.
- B. vs 2 - Paul spoke many encouraging words to the people.
 1. What encourages you? What discourages you?
 2. What is the most encouraging thing someone has said to you?
 3. Are you an energy giver or an energy taker? An encourager or a discourager?
- C. vs 3 - Paul faced constant resistance from the Jews. How could he be so encouraging in the face of so much pressure? How 'bout you?
 1. **Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. **Isaiah 51:11-13** The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. 12 “I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass, 13 that you forget the LORD your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor?

3. Paul changed plans often. What does that say about him. Do you change plans often or not? Why?

D. vs 4 - Where was Sopater from? What does that say about him? What would be said about those from our city? From our church?

E. vs 6 - Who's the “us” in this verse?

F. vs 7 - When did they “come together” to break bread?

1. **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. What did it mean to “break bread” together?

a. **1 Corinthians 11:23-28** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

G. vs 7 - 8 - Can you read between the lines and describe what happened here?

H. vs 9 - 10 - Again, why did the Lord perform so many true miracles through the apostles? What is the role of many OT & NT miracles?

I. vs 11 - 12 - Resurrection...all in a day's work. (or night's work!)

J. vs 12 - The people were greatly comforted. What if Eutychus had not been raised from the dead? What about you? What about when a miracle doesn't happen? What is our response to be?

K. vs 17 - Paul sent for the elders of the Ephesus church. Where do we get the idea of elders from anyway?

1. **Titus 1:5-9** The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. 6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7 Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless —not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

L. vs 20 - How does this verse describe the form of Paul's ministry?

M. vs 21 - What was the primary message of Paul's ministry?

1. What should be your primary message? What if it doesn't seem welcome or palatable?

N. vs 22 - Paul always seemed to be "compelled by the Spirit." How do you get to be "compelled by the Spirit?" Are you often "compelled by the Spirit" toward action? Why or why not?

O. vs 24 - How do you spell "s-i-n-g-l-e-m-i-n-d-e-d?"

1. Are you singleminded? Do you know anyone who is?
2. What task do you feel the Lord has assigned to you? Write it.
3. Would you continue on if you knew verse 23 awaited you? Would you really?
 - a. Packing your worldly goods in your coffin and taking off to serve.

P. vs 26 - How could Paul say he was innocent of the blood of all men?

Q. vs 27 - What does Paul mean by the "whole counsel" of God?

R. vs 28 - Who is this exhortation to?

1. How does an elder keep watch over the flock?
 - a. Do you feel watched over?
2. Why is the church so precious to God?
3. So an elder's role is to...
4. What is the difference between an elder and a pastor, shepherd, overseer?

S. vs 29 - What characterizes “savage wolves?”

1. What causes men to distort the truth to gain disciples after them?

T. vs 31 - Are you “on your guard?” Does this kind of thing still happen today?

U. vs 31 - Was Paul close to the Ephesian church? How do you know?

V. vs 32 - The message of a departing pastor. What does this verse say about Paul's goal for the church he has poured his life into for three years?

1. Who are those who are sanctified? Romans 8:29-30

W. vs 34 - 35 - How does Paul's attitude compare with many “high-profile” “preachers” of today?

X. vs 36 - 38 - Pouring your life into others. What does it gain you anyway?

1. Who are you pouring your life into? Are you the ladle or are you the bowl?

V. Conclusion

A. Next Week - Chap 21

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 21 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 21 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - "After we had torn ourselves away from them," What does this phrase imply?

1. What colossal fact do you know about Rhodes?

B. vs 2 - 3 - What do these verses tell you about Luke's personality and propensities?

C. vs 4 - What does this verse tell you about the attitudes of those in the early church?

1. **Acts 2:41-47** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

D. vs 4 - Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem, the disciples in Tyre, through the Spirit, urged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Which one was God's will? How do you determine God's will when Christian people see things differently? Is there always "God's will" in every situation?

1. How does scripture use the term "will" when referring to God's will?

E. vs 5 - Paul didn't listen to the counsel of fellow Christians. Why not? Good idea or bad idea? How do you know when to go with counsel and when to proceed on another course?

1. How does the following passage fit here?

Proverbs 15:21-22 Folly delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course. 22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

F. vs 5 - They knelt to pray...why? When you ask God's blessings upon your way, do you really believe it is God who grants them?...or is it just a formality?

G. vs 7 - There are "brothers" everywhere they go. How long is this after the birth of the church in Jerusalem?

1. How did the church spread so fast from Jerusalem?

a. **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

b. **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

H. vs 8 - Philip, the evangelist. One of what seven?

I. vs 9 - Why does Luke mention "unmarried?" What does it mean that they "prophesied?"

J. vs 10 - How is it that Agabus came down from Judea when Caesarea is north of Judea? What does it call Agabus?

K. vs 11 - Did Paul believe the message from Agabus or did he dispute it?

L. vs 13 - Again, what is Paul's response to the people's pleading?

M. vs 14 - What was the people's response to Paul's direction?

1. Are you willing to let God accomplish His will in someone else's life? What makes it easier to release someone in a situation like this?

N. vs 16 - 17 - Accompanied by the disciples from Caesarea, staying in Jerusalem with a man from Cyprus, and the brothers of Jerusalem greeted us warmly.

1. How has the culture we lived in affected our exercise of the Christian virtue of hospitality?

a. **Romans 12:13** Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Timothy 3:2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1 Timothy 5:9-10 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

Titus 1:8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

3 John 7 - 8 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

2. How do you define hospitality? How do you, in particular, show hospitality to anyone outside the bounds of your nuclear family?

O. vs 19 - What was so special about what God had done through Paul's ministry?

P vs 20 - Why do you suppose the converted Jews were all jealous for the law?

Q. vs 21 - Was this accusation of Paul just slightly true?

1. Again, what is the role of the law in the Christian life?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 22

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 22 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 22 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Who was Paul speaking to? What was the role of women in Jewish life?
Are the roles of women in America more or less biblically allegiant? How so?

1. Why did Paul have to make a defense at all? Isn't God his defender?

a. **Acts 20:24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me —the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

B. vs 2 - What was the education level of Paul? Of the ancients? Better, worse, different? What was their capacity? More, same, different?

C. vs 3 - Paul was a Jew. How did Paul become a Jew?

1. **Romans 2:28-29** A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

2. Who was Gamaliel? What did it mean that Paul was "thoroughly trained" under Gamaliel?

3. What role does empathy play in Paul's ability to relate and communicate? How can you communicate best to others?

D. vs 4 - What does it mean to be a follower of "the Way?"
What did it mean about 30 years ago?

1. What motivates zealots like Paul to action?
2. What's a zealot? Are you a zealot? Why not?

E. vs 6 - Why do you suppose the story of Paul's conversion includes the time of day?

1. How bright was the light that flashed around Paul? What does it take to produce light? What is light? Was this same blinding light emanated at the tomb on resurrection morning?

"An individual lightning bolt can pack several hundred million volts at 10,000 amperes, one trillion watts, briefly burning up more electrical power than is being used in the entire United States. Monsters of one billion volts and over 100,000 amperes are not unknown."

F. vs 7 - What was Paul's physical response to the Lord's presence?

1. What was Moses' response? What was Ezekiel's response? What was Isaiah's response? What was John's response?

a. **Deut. 9:18** Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger.

Ezek. 1:28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Ezek. 3:23 So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown.

Ezek. 44:4 Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown.

Dan. 10:9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Acts 22:7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

Rev. 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

2. What do you suppose your response will be to the glory of the Lord?
What should it be now?

G. vs 8 - What was the source of the Light?

1. How 'bout Paul's attitude here? Your attitude?

a. What does it mean "all that you have been assigned (appointed) to do? Do you and I have assigned, appointed tasks? How do you know?"

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

H. vs 11 - Ever been temporarily blinded by a camera flash? Remember the dot you saw? Paul was totally blind.

I. vs 12 - Remember Ananias' response to God's task for him in Acts 9?

1. Acts 9:13-15 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

2. What should your response be when you receive an enviable assignment from God? How 'bout an unenviable task?

J. vs 13 - What happens when men and women are supernaturally healed in scripture? They are...

K. vs 14 - Ananias said God chose Paul to know his will. Why did God choose Paul and not someone else? Was that fair to everyone else? Did God choose you? For what? Is that fair? Why did God choose Israel to be his people? Was that fair to the other countries and peoples?

L. vs 15 - What does God call us to witness to?

M. vs 16 - What is the role of baptism in "washing your sins away?"

1. "be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

2. Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3. How would you respond to the doctrine of baptismal regeneration?

4. What does it mean "calling on his name?"

N. vs 18 - How did the Lord know they would not accept Paul's testimony about him?

1. Does the Lord know today who will and who will not accept the testimony about Jesus? How does He know?

O. vs 20 - Do you think Paul was regretful about Stephen's killing?
How did Paul deal with that kind of regret?

P. vs 21 - Why did the crowd just listen until verse 21?

Q. vs 22 - How did the Lord use a pagan here to achieve His will? Does the Lord still use unregenerate people to achieve His will? How does He do that?

1. **Ephesians 1:11-12** In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

a. What does "everything" mean in this verse?

R. vs 25 - How would you describe Paul's attitude as he is about to be flogged?

S. vs 26 - 30 - Paul was a Roman citizen, but also a Jew. How does dual citizenship work? For Paul...for you?

1. **Ephesians 2:11-13** Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

2. **Philippians 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 23

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 23 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 23 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - vs 1 - How in the world could Paul say this?

1. Can you say this? What would it take for a person to be able to say this?

2. When is enough enough?

3. Is it possible to fulfill regulations and not be right with God?

What matters with God? (WARNING: This may be a trick question)

a. **1 Samuel 16:7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

B. vs 2 - What do you think Ananias motive was in doing this?

1. Why struck on the mouth?

a. How easy is it for you to empathize or imagine what others might be thinking?

C. vs 3 - Did Paul respond like a Christian? How does a Christian respond?
What's the model?

1. Was Paul concerned that the law had been violated or that the High Priest was being a hypocrite? What is a hypocrite anyway? Why do you suppose people are so sensitive to hypocrisy? Could people think of you as a hypocrite?

a. How do you stop being a hypocrite?

Romans 12:2-3 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

D. vs 4 - 5 - Do you think Paul really knew or didn't know this was the High Priest?

1. With those in authority over you, how do YOU apply the principle: "Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people?"

E. vs 6 - What's the difference between being manipulative vs being strategic? What was Paul doing here?

1. Was Paul being truthful here?

F vs 7 - How do you keep from being sidetracked on the "rabbit trails" of life? How do you "keep the main thing the main thing?"

1. How do divisions affect the productivity of "religious" organizations?
How do you avoid these divisions?

G. vs 8 - How did the Sadducees and the Pharisees differ?

H. vs 9 - What does the Pharisees response tell you about their hearts?

I. vs 10 - What do you think the "troops" thought about the "religious" people they had to rescue Paul from?

1. do people think of you as a "religious" person? What characterizes a "religious" person? What are the alternatives?

J. vs 11 - What would it do for you if you knew the Lord had your steps mapped out for you the way He did for Paul? Does He?

K. vs 12 - 14 - What would motivate 40 men to conspire to murder? Did they see it that way? What did they think they were doing?

L. vs 16 - What a coincidence that Paul's nephew heard about the plot! Are there coincidences? To what degree do you believe the Lord has ordained the events of your life?

1. Read all of **Psalm 139**

Psalm 139:14-16 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

2. How does your view of God's "ordaining" affect the way you live?

M. vs 17 - What would have happened if Paul's nephew had decided "not to get involved?"

1. How do you decide whether or not to "get involved?"

N. vs 18 - 35 - What do you think about the response of the Roman military to this situation?

O. vs 35 - Paul in Herod's palace...imagine that!

1. What's in focus when the Lord gets you in to situations you could never even think of?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 24

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 24-25 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 24-25 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - What authority do governors & governments have over Christians?

B. vs 5 - How did the Jews see Christianity? A sect? What's a sect?

C. vs 10 - What was Paul's attitude toward Felix?

D. vs 14 - 15 - So if Paul believes everything that agrees with the Law and the Prophets and agrees w/ them on the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked, what's the difference?

E. vs 16 - How does this verse flesh out in your life? How do you maintain a clear conscience before God and man?

F. vs 17 - What's the distinction between gifts for the poor vs offerings?
Tithes vs gifts vs offerings?

G. vs 22 - How do you suppose Felix was "well acquainted with the Way?"
Have you ever known anyone who was "well acquainted" with the gospel but did not follow the Way? How could that happen?

H. vs 24 - 25 - How did Felix respond to Paul's sharing of the Gospel? Were you ever afraid when you heard the biblical message? Did you ever try to put a decision on the gospel off until someday when it was convenient?

1. What topics were included in Paul's presentation to Felix?
2. Do you think Felix ever "found a convenient time?"
3. When should a person respond to the Gospel? When will a person respond to the gospel?
 - a. **Hebrews 3:15** As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."
4. How were Felix's carnal desires and his spiritual interests intertwined? How do people today mix their carnal desires with that which is "spiritual?"

I. vs 27 - Two years have gone by with Paul in prison. How could God allow a man like Paul to be cooped up in prison for two years? What possible good could come from that? Is God's providence easy to see in your life? What kind of attitude does it take to recognize providence? Do you defer to the providence of God in your life? How?

J. Chap 25 vs 3 - "Religious" people plotting murder. What does this tell you about their "religion?"

K. vs 7 - Any observations on the Roman system of law under which Paul was tried?

L. vs 8 - 11 - What was Paul's reasoning here? Why did he appeal to Caesar?

M. vs 19 - How do worldlings see disputes among "religious" people over matters of their own doctrine?

1. How do worldlings see the whole issue of Jesus? Can you blame them? What would it take for them to change?

N. vs 22 - Exactly what do you think King Agrippa's interest was in hearing Paul?

O. vs 23 - What things were important to Agrippa & Bernice? Why do men like pomp anyway?

P. vs 27 - Festus couldn't come up with substantive charges against Paul. How does this fit with Acts 24:16?

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 26-27

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 26-27 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 26-27 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 1 - Paul defended himself with active engagement. What is the balance between active piety and a reserved, quiet "God will defend me" approach?

B. vs 2 - One sentence intro. What's the principle of dealing with kings and big mucky mucks?

1. Self-Restraint is the order of the day

Proverbs 23:1-2 When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, 2 and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.

C. vs 3 - Paul grew up and lived as a Pharisee. What would that be like today?

D. vs 6 - What hope was Paul referring to here?

E. vs 7 - How do the Jews hope to have resurrected life with God?

F. vs 8 - Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

1. The necessity of the SUPERNatural. What does this mean? What does it imply?

2. Ever really thought about our extraordinary hope in the resurrection? That God gives life again to dead people?

G. vs 9 - Why do people oppose religious / political ideas? Resistance to religious notions or movements demands what? If you actively resist or defend against other forms

of belief or lifestyles, what does that indicate about you? Idealism, convictions, pragmatism, and absolute truth.

1. If you have no strongly held beliefs, what does that indicate about you?
2. Is the Lord capable of defending His own interests?
Against false beliefs, cults, political persuasions?

Gamaliel's response in **Acts 5:38-39** Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

H. vs 10 - Do you honestly think you might ever be persecuted to the point of imprisonment or death like the NT saints? What would you be willing to be imprisoned for?

I. vs 13 - 14 - More info on Paul's conversion. Everyone fell to the ground.

1. Is it true that a goad is a girl toad?

J. vs 15 - Who appeared to Paul? How has/will God the Son appeared to people in human history? Pre-incarnate, incarnate, and...

K. vs 17 - 18 - How clear was Paul's mission? How clear do you feel like your mission is?

1. What was Paul's response to his charge? Scale of 1 to 10...How faithful have you been to YOUR charge from the Lord? What do you need to do to raise that number?

L. vs 18 - What sanctifies people?

M. vs 20 - What was Paul's simple message?

N. vs 26 - Why was Paul's message so powerful? Why was his life so powerful?

1. 1Cor. 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

2. Simplicity, singlemindedness, and focus. How do they affect the impact of a life?

- a. What's the opposite of each of these? Which better characterizes your life? What would it take to be simpler and more focussed?

O. vs 27 - Why would Paul have made a great salesman? To what degree are we "salespeople for Jesus?"

P. vs 29 - Here and in Philippians 4:9 Paul holds himself up as an example. Are you living in such a way as to be able to do the same? What's preventing you?

1. **Philippians 4:9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me —put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Q. vs 32 - Was Paul's appeal to Caesar an oops or a whoopee?

R. Acts 27 - Narrative of the trip. Reading the Bible how it's written.

1. What are some of the different forms of writing?

2. How do you know how to read a passage?

S. vs 9 - What time of year was this?

T. vs 10 - Common sense vs Angelic revelation (vs 23)

1. When do you use one vs the other?

U. vs 22 - Such encouraging words!

V. vs 23 - When can you expect an angel to bring a message from God? Why doesn't it happen like this much today? Does it? What role to angels play today?

W. vs 31 - 32 - When Paul speaks...soldiers do what? How was Paul's rapport with his captors? Why?

X. vs 14 - 44 - What do you take away from this episode of "Shipwrecked?" (not "Lost")

IV. Conclusion

A. Assignment: Acts 28

B. Prayer

I. Intro

A. The purpose of Bible study

1. Psalm 119

B. The method of Bible study

1. Observation

a. What does the text of Scripture actually say?

2. Interpretation

a. What does the text of Scripture really mean?

3. Application

a. How does the text of Scripture apply?

C. Prayer

II. Acts 28 - Personal Observation Time

A. Read Acts 28 verbally

B. Between-the-lines study

C. Observe, observe, observe

III. Application for Life Change

A. vs 2 - Do non-Christians do good deeds? Why? How does God see their good deeds? How does God see your good deeds? How do you see your good deeds?

1. **Romans 3:9-12** What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

2. **Romans 2:23-29** You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." 25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. 28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

3. **Luke 17:10** So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, `We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'”

B. vs 3 - How did a cool car like a viper come out of the fire?

C. vs 4 - Why do you think people always have to attribute a reason to things that take place?

D. vs 4 - 7 - What was the response of the people of Malta to the catastrophe of the shipwreck victims?

1. What should our response be to the catastrophe of the victims of Hurricane Katrina?

2. What should our response not be?

3. What would Jesus do for relief aid?

a. **Luke 13:1-9** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them —do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” 6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, `For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ 8 “`Sir,’ the man replied, `leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

E. vs 9 - What happens when someone has the supernatural gift of healing?

F. vs 10 - The people of Malta were giving people. Are you a giving person or a hoarding person? Why? How have you dealt with your selfishness?

G. vs 14 - How is it that they found “brothers” at so many places?

H. vs 15 - Paul was encouraged by their presence. How does your mere presence encourage others? Has anyone ever encouraged you by their presence?

I. vs 16 - What do you suppose it was like to have been the soldier that guarded Paul?

J. vs 17 - Why did Paul keep going to the Jews? How is it that Paul called them brothers? In what sense?

K. vs 24 - Why is this verse so important in a proper view of witnessing and

outreach? How does this verse fit with Acts 13:48? Why do some people believe and others don't?

1. **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

L. vs 25 - Do you really believe the it is the Holy Spirit speaking through the scripture?

M. vs 26 - 27 - What in the world do these verses mean? How does God see unsaved people? How does He see evangelism and the spreading of the message of salvation?

N. vs 28 - Did God get frustrated with the Jews and so send the gospel to the gentiles to get some results?

O. vs 30 - How do you picture Paul's life during this two year period? How do you picture Paul? Is there anyone he reminds you of?

P. vs 31 - What was Pauls message? Billy Graham's message of the cross. What would people say is your message?

IV. Conclusion

A. Prayer