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A Practical Study of ACTS: Take It to Them!

"Putting the GO Back in the GOspel"

PART I

STUDY NUMBER ONE – ACTS 1:1-26 NOTES

v. 1 The first account I composed, O Theophilus, concerning all that Jesus began to do and to teach,
v. 2 until the day when he was taken up, after having given orders through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.
v. 3 To whom also He presented himself as one who was living, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
v. 4 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to be waiting for the promise of the Father which you heard from me;
v. 5 for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.
v. 6 And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying: "Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"
v. 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
v. 8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
v. 9 And having said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud took Him up out of their sight.
v.10 And as they were gazing intently into the heaven while He was departing, and behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.
v.11 And they also said: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him going into heaven."

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v.12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.
v.13 And when they entered [the city], they went up to the upper room, where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the brother of James.
v.14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
v.15 And in these days Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,
v.16 "Men, brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.
v.17 For he was numbered among us, and received his portion in this ministry.
v.18 Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness; and having fallen flat on his face, he cracked open at the waist with a crashing noise and all his inner organs gushed out.
v.19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, field of blood.
v.20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, and let no man dwell in it;' and 'His office let another man take.'
v.21 It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—
v.22 beginning from the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection."
v.23 And they nominated two, Joseph, the one called Barsabas, (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.
v.24 And they prayed, and said: "You, Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen
v.25 to receive the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."
v.26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 1:1-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What was Luke's purpose in writing his gospel, according to the first two verses?

3. What are the Lord's last words before He is taken up to heaven?

4. What great promise ought to motivate us in our service for the Lord in verse 11?

5. What did the disciples do when they got back to Jerusalem, according to verse 14?

6. What was the first action taken by Peter and the disciples in verses 15ff?

7. What is it about Judas that makes his situation so difficult, according to verse 17?

8. What three things did they do in replacing Judas, according to verses 23, 24, & 26?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Jesus is a living Savior.

LESSON #2: We are to be His witnesses.

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LESSON #3: He is coming back again.

LESSON #4: The rapture will be similar to the ascension except it will be quicker.

LESSON #5: It thrills the heart of God to see us with one mind devoting ourselves to prayer.

LESSON #6: Judas turned aside to go to his own place.

LESSON #7: When we try to help God we always hinder His ultimate purpose.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO – ACTS 2:1-47

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v. 1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
v. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a mighty wind borne violently, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
v. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire being distributed among them, and they sat on each one of them.
v. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, even as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.
v. 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
v. 6 And when this sound was heard, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speaking in his own dialect.
v. 7 And they were amazed and marveled, saying: “Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
v. 8 And how is it that we each are hearing in our own dialect in which we were born?
v. 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who are dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
v.10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and the sojourning Romans, both Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism,
v.11 Cretans and Arabs—we are hearing them speaking in our languages the mighty works of God?”
v.12 And they continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What is the meaning of this?”
v.13 But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”
v.14 But Peter, having taken his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea, and all who are living in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words.

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v.15 For these men are not intoxicated, as you are assuming, for it is only the third hour of the day (9:00 a.m.).
v.16 But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
v.17 'And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
v.18 Even upon my bondslaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour forth of my Spirit and they shall prophesy.
v.19 And I will bring forth miracles in the heaven above, and signs on the earth beneath, blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
v.20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.
v.21 And it shall be that everyone who shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
v.22 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man who has been demonstrated to you by God to be that which He claims to be with works of power and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves are knowing.
v.23 This man, having been delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.
v.24 Whom God raised up, putting an end to the birth pains of death, because it was not possible for Him to be mastered by it.
v.25 For David is saying concerning Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; because He is at my right hand, in order that I might not be shaken.
v.26 On this account my heart was made glad and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover my flesh also will abide in hope;
v.27 because you will not abandon my soul to Hades, neither will you permit your Holy One to see corruption.
v.28 You made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy with your presence.'
v.29 Men, brothers, I may speak to you with utter freedom of speech concerning the patriarch David, because he both died and was buried and his tomb is with us to this day.
v.30 And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that from his offspring He would seat one upon his throne.
v.31 He looked ahead and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ (Messiah), that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.
v.32 This Jesus God raised up, to which we are all witnesses.
v.33 Therefore having been exalted by the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured forth this which you are both seeing and hearing.
v.34 For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself is saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,
v.35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'
v.36 Beyond a shadow of a doubt, therefore, let all the house of Israel be knowing that God made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."
v.37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men, brothers, what shall we do?"

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v.38 And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
v.39 For to you is the promise and to your children, and to all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.”
v.40 And with many other words he solemnly affirmed and kept on exhorting them, saying: “Be saved from this perverse generation!”
v.41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
v.42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.
v.43 And a reverential fear kept on coming upon every soul; and many wonders and signs kept on coming through the apostles.
v.44 And all those who believed were together, and were having all things in common.
v.45 And they were selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, according as anyone was having a need.
v.46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
v.47 praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord kept on adding to them daily those who were being saved.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 2:1-47 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe the setting and the manifestations of the coming of the Holy Spirit in verses 1-3.

3. Why was the multitude bewildered according to verse 6?

4. What are the two responses in verses 12-13 to this happening?

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5. How does Peter explain this happening, according to verses 16-21?

6. What does Peter say about Jesus, according to verse 22?

7. What happened to Jesus, according to verses 32-33?

8. What does Peter recommend they do, according to verse 38?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Spirit of God comes exactly on schedule.

LESSON #2: We are moving from the kingdom to the church.

LESSON #3: Tongues were a sign of judgment to Israel.

LESSON #4: The filling of the Spirit was unanimous on the day of Pentecost.

LESSON #5: Peter's message focuses upon the Person of Christ.

LESSON #6: Peter's message is directed toward Israel.

LESSON #7: Be saved from this perverse generation.

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LESSON #8: Love, fellowship, and oneness characterize the new believers.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THREE – ACTS 3:1-4:37

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v. 1 Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.), the hour of prayer.
v. 2 And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they were accustomed to place daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, for the purpose of asking alms from those who were entering the temple.
v. 3 And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.
v. 4 And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said: "Look at us!"
v. 5 And he began fixing his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.
v. 6 Then Peter said: "I am not having silver and gold, but what I am having, this I am giving to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene start walking and keep on walking!"
v. 7 And having firmly grasped his right hand, he raised him up. And instantly his feet and his ankles were strengthened.
v. 8 And leaping up, he stood and went to walking about; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
v. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.
v.10 And they were recognizing him as being the one who used to sit at the beautiful gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
v.11 And while he was holding firmly to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the covered colonnade, the one called Solomon's, utterly flabbergasted.
v.12 And Peter, having seen this, he replied to the people, "Men, Israelites, why are you marvelling at this, or why are you fixing your attention upon us, as if by our own power or piety we have made him to be walking about?
v.13 The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant, Jesus, whom you indeed delivered up and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.
v.14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,
v.15 and killed the originator of life, whom God raised from the dead,—a fact to which we ourselves are witnesses.

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v.16 And on the basis of faith in His name, it is His name which has strengthened this man whom you are seeing and knowing, and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.
v.17 And now, brethren, I am knowing for sure that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.
v.18 But the things which God announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He thus fulfilled.
v.19 Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;
v.20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.
v.21 Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, about which God spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
v.22 Moses indeed said, 'A prophet from among your brethren the Lord your God shall raise up for you who is like me; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you.
v.23 And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'
v.24 And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.
v.25 It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God covenanted with your fathers, saying to Abraham: 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
v.26 For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."
4:v.1 And while they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple police, and the Sadducees, burst suddenly upon them,
v. 2 being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and announcing in the case of Jesus the resurrection from among the dead.
v. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.
v. 4 But many of those who heard the Word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.
v. 5 And it came about on the next day, that their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem;
v. 6 also Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.
v. 7 And having stood them in their midst, they were inquiring: "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"
v. 8 Then Peter, being filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers of the people and elders,
v. 9 if we are being examined today regarding a good deed done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,
v.10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by means of this One this man stands here before you in good health.
v.11 This One is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

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v.12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is not even another name under heaven which has been given among men, by means of which we can be saved."
v.13 Now viewing the confidence of Peter and John, and having understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and they were recognizing them as those who were with Jesus.
v.14 And seeing the man who was standing with them, the one who had been healed, they were not having one thing to say against it.
v.15 But when they had ordered them to go off outside of the council, they were conferring with one another saying:
v.16 "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy sign has taken place through them is known to all those who are residing in Jerusalem, and we are not able to deny it.
v.17 But in order that it may not be caused to spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any man in this name."
v.18 And having called them, they commanded them not to be speaking at all or to be teaching upon the basis of the name of Jesus.
v.19 But Peter and John, answering, said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to be yielding obedience to you rather than to God, you be the judge;
v.20 for we are not able to stop speaking the things which we saw and heard."
v.21 And when they had threatened them further, they released them, (finding no basis on which they might punish them) because of the people, because they all were glorifying God for what had happened;
v.22 for the man was more than forty years old upon whom this sign of healing had been performed.
v.23 And having been released, they went to their own associates, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.
v.24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voice to God with one accord and said: "O Lord, it is you who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all the things in them,
v.25 who by the mouth of our father David your servant, through the Holy Spirit, said, 'Why did the Gentiles behave arrogantly, and the people devise futile things?
v.26 The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ.'
v.27 For truly in this city there joined together against your holy Servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
v.28 to do whatever your hand and your purpose determined beforehand should occur.
v.29 And as for the present circumstances, Lord, look upon their threatenings, and grant to your bondslaves to be speaking your word with all confidence,
v.30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
v.31 And having prayed, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and went to speaking the word of God with boldness.

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v.32 And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not even one was saying that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them.
v.33 And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon all of them.
v.34 For there was no one among them who was in need, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses, selling them, kept on bringing the prices of the things that were being sold,
v.35 and kept on placing them at the feet of the apostles; and distribution was continually being made to each one, according as he was having a need.
v.36 And Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, which latter name by interpretation means Son of Encouragement, a Levite, of the land of Cyprus,
v.37 possessing a field, sold it and brought the money and placed it at the feet of the apostles.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 3:1-4:37 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What kind of gift does Peter give to the lame man, according to verse 6?

3. Why did God allow the man to be healed, according to verse 13?

4. What does he recommend they do, according to verse 19?

5. What was it about their teaching that upset the priests and the Levites, according to chapter 4:1, 2?

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6. To whom does Peter give all the glory for the healing that has taken place, according to verse 10?

7. How do Peter and John respond to the council, according to verse 19?

8. What are the results of their prayers, according to verse 31?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Sometimes we must give to people what they need, rather than what they want.

LESSON #2: The single condition for salvation is faith.

LESSON #3: The focus of the whole passage is upon Jesus Christ and one's relationship to Him.

LESSON #4: Salvation now resides in a person, not in the works of the Law.

LESSON #5: There is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ.

LESSON #6: There is no excuse for ignorance with regard to the things of God.

LESSON #7: Confidence is a manifestation of the Spirit-filled life.

LESSON #8: You never hear a testimony in the book of Acts about getting the Holy Spirit.

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LESSON #9: The concern of these early believers is for the needs of one another.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – ACTS 5:1-42

NOTES

v. 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property.
v. 2 And kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and having brought a certain part, he placed it at the feet of the apostles.
v. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart, to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?
v. 4 While it remained [unsold], did it not remain your own? And having sold it, was it not under your authority? Why did you resolve upon this deed in your heart? You did not lie to men, but to God."
v. 5 And Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last; and there came a great fear upon all those who heard.
v. 6 And the younger men arose and covered him up, and having carried him out, buried him.
v. 7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
v. 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" And she said, "Yes, for so much."
v. 9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out."
v.10 And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men, having entered, found her dead, and having carried her out, they buried her beside her husband.
v.11 And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.
v.12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's covered colonnade.
v.13 But none of the rest was daring to be entering into fellowship with them; but the people were esteeming them highly.
v.14 And those believing on the Lord were the more constantly being added to the number, crowds both of men and women;
v.15 to such an extent that they were even carrying out those who were ill into the streets, and placing them upon cots and pallets, in order that the shadow of Peter, as he was coming, might overshadow some of them.

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v.16 And also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, carrying sick ones and those who were being troubled by unclean spirits; and they were all being healed.
v.17 But the high priest rose up and all those with him, the sect which is of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.
v.18 And they laid their hands upon the apostles, and put them in a public jail.
v.19 But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the doors of the prison, and taking them out he said:
v.20 "Be going on your way, and having taken a stand, be speaking in the temple to the people all the words of this life."
v.21 And having heard this, they went about daybreak into the temple and began teaching. Now when the high priest and those with him had come, they called together the Sanhedrin and all the Council of elders of the sons of Israel, and they sent to the prison-house to have them brought.
v.22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and having returned, they reported back,
v.23 saying, "We found the prison-house locked quite securely and the guards were standing at the doors; but when we opened up, we found no one inside."
v.24 Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what might become of this.
v.25 Then a certain one having come, brought word to them: "Behold! the men whom you put in prison are in the temple standing and teaching the people!"
v.26 Then the captain, having gone with the officers, was bringing them without violence, for they were fearing the people, lest they should be stoned.
v.27 And having brought them, they stood them in the midst of the Council. And the high priest questioned them,
v.28 saying, "With a charge we commanded you not to be teaching in this name, and behold! you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are intending to bring upon us the blood of this man."
v.29 But Peter and the apostles answering said: "It is a necessity to be obeying God rather than men.
v.30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed, hanging Him upon a cross.
v.31 This one God exalted to His right hand as a Leader and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
v.32 And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God gave to those who are obeying Him."
v.33 Now when they heard this, they were cut in two and were intending to slay them.
v.34 But a certain Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council, and gave orders to put the men outside for a brief period.
v.35 And he said to them: "Men, Israelites, be taking heed to yourselves with regard to what you are about to be doing to these men,

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v.36 for before these days there arose Theudas, claiming to be somebody; and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him, who was killed, and all as many as were obeying him were broken up and came to nothing.
v.37 After this man there arose Judas of Galilee in the days of the census, and drew away some people after him. That one also perished, and all those who were obeying him were scattered.
v.38 And so in the present case, I am saying to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, because if this plan or this work be of men, it will be overthrown.
v.39 But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God."
v.40 And they were persuaded by him; and having called the apostles, having beaten them, they ordered them not to be speaking in the name of Jesus, and released them.
v.41 So they went on their way rejoicing from the presence of the Sanhedrin, that they were deemed worthy to be dishonored for the sake of the name.
v.42 And every day, in the temple and at home, they did not cease teaching and giving out the good news that the Christ is Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 5:1-42 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong according to verse 2?

3. What question does Peter ask in verse 3?

4. What was the response of the church in verse 11 to these acts of judgment?

5. What was the response of the high priest and the Sadducees, according to verse 17?

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6. How did the Lord deliver them from prison, and what did He tell them to do, according to verses 19 & 20?

7. What is the counsel of Gamaliel in verses 35-39?

8. What was the apostles' response, according to verses 41 & 42?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Lying, with regard to spiritual matters, has a tremendous price attached.

LESSON #2: Satan filled the heart of Ananias instead of the Spirit.

LESSON #3: If Ananias and Sapphira are Christians, this is what is known as the sin unto death.

LESSON #4: Healing, in the New Testament, is always 100% and permanent.

LESSON #5: The Lord protects and provides for His own when they are in difficulties.

LESSON #6: It is necessary for us to be obeying God rather than man.

LESSON #7: If God is involved in your program, there is no way of stopping you.

LESSON #8: Nothing can affect the apostles' joy.

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LESSON #9: It is a privilege to suffer for the cause of Christ.

LESSON #10: They kept on teaching and giving out the good news that the Christ is Jesus.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – ACTS 6:1-7:60

NOTES

v. 1 Now in these days when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily provision of food.
v. 2 Then the twelve, having called to themselves the whole community of the disciples, said, "It is not desirable that we should neglect the word of God in order to be serving tables.
v. 3 But select, brethren, from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we shall appoint over this business.
v. 4 But we shall give constant attention to prayer and to ministry of the word."
v. 5 And the word pleased the entire multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenes, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.
v. 6 Whom they stood before the apostles; and they, having prayed, laid their hands upon them.
v. 7 And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem kept on multiplying greatly, and a large number of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.
v. 8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.
v. 9 But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up, arguing with Stephen.
v.10 And they were not able to stand up against the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.
v.11 Then they secretly induced men who were saying: "We have heard him saying slanderous words against Moses and against God."
v.12 And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and having come upon him suddenly, they dragged him away and brought him into the Sanhedrin.
v.13 And they presented false witnesses, saying: "This man is not ceasing from continually speaking words against this place, which is holy, and against the Law;

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v.14 for we have heard him saying that Jesus, the Nazarene, will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses handed down to us."
v.15 And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Sanhedrin saw his face like the face of an angel.
7:v.1 Then the high priest said: "Are these things so?"
v. 2 And he said, "Men, brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.
v. 3 And said to him, 'Come out from your country and your relatives, and come into the country which I will indicate to you.'
v. 4 Then having come out of the country of the Chaldeans, he took up his residence in Haran. And from there, after his father died, He transferred him to this land in which you are now residing.
v. 5 And He did not give him an inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground; yet even when he had no child, He promised that He would give it to him as a permanent possession, and to his offspring after him.
v. 6 And God spoke to this effect, that his offspring shall be temporary residents in a foreign land, and that they shall enslave them and mistreat them four hundred years.
v. 7 'And whatever nation to which they shall be in bondage I myself will judge,' God said, 'and after that they will come out and serve me in this place.'
v. 8 And He gave him a covenant of circumcision; and so he became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.
v. 9 And the patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. But God was with him.
v.10 And delivered him out of all his tribulations, and gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he appointed him governor over Egypt and his whole house.
v.11 Then there came a famine over the whole of Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction with it; and our fathers were not finding sustenance.
v.12 But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers first.
v.13 And during their second visit Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's nationality became evident to Pharaoh.
v.14 And Joseph having sent, summoned to himself Jacob his father and all his relatives, seventy-five souls.
v.15 And Jacob went down into Egypt and he ended his days, he and our fathers.
v.16 And they were carried over to Shechem, and placed in the tomb which Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.
v.17 But as the time of the promise which God had assured to Abraham was drawing near, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt,
v.18 until there arose another king over Egypt who did not know Joseph.
v.19 It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would abandon their infants and they would not survive.
v.20 And it was at this time that Moses was born; and he was beautiful in the sight of God, and was nourished three months in the house of his father.
v.21 And when he was abandoned, the daughter of Pharaoh took him up and nourished him for her own son.

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v.22 And Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.
v.23 But when he was approaching the age of forty, it came into his heart to pay a visit to his brethren, the sons of Israel.
v.24 And when he saw one of them being treated unjustly, he defended him and avenged the one who was being roughly treated, having cut down the Egyptian.
v.25 Now he was thinking that his brethren understood that God through his hand was giving them deliverance, but they did not understand.
v.26 And on the following day he appeared to them while they were fighting and tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, 'Men, you are brothers, why are you wronging one another?'
v.27 But the one who was wronging his neighbor pushed him away, saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?
v.28 You are not desiring to kill me even as you killed the Egyptian yesterday, are you?'
v.29 Then Moses fled at this remark and became a temporary resident in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.
v.30 And after forty years had passed by, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in a flaming fire of a bush.
v.31 And Moses, having seen it, went to wondering at the spectacle. And as he was approaching it to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord:
v.32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob.' But Moses becoming terrified was not daring to look.
v.33 But the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'
v.34 I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and I heard their groaning, and I came down to rescue them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.'
v.35 This Moses whom they rejected, saying: 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge?' This one God has sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn-bush.
v.36 This man led them out, having performed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.
v.37 This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren who is like me.'
v.38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who was speaking to him in Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received the living divine utterances to give to you.
v.39 To whom our fathers were not desirous of becoming obedient, but thrust him away from themselves and turned back in their hearts to Egypt,
v.40 having said to Aaron, 'Make for us gods who will go before us. For this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt—we are not knowing what happened to him.'
v.41 And in those days they made a calf and offered a sacrifice to the idol, and they kept on rejoicing in the works of their hands.
v.42 Then God turned away and delivered them up to worship the heavenly bodies; even as it stands written in the book of the prophets, 'It was not to me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O House of Israel?

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v.43 You also raised up the tent of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha, the images which you made for the purpose of worshipping them. I also will remove you beyond Babylon.'
v.44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, even as He appointed when He was speaking to Moses that he should make it according to the pattern which he had seen.
v.45 And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua when they entered the territory possessed by the Gentiles whom God drove out before our fathers, until the days of David.
v.46 Who found favor before God, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.
v.47 But it was Solomon who built a house for Him.
v.48 However, the Most High is not dwelling in houses made by human hands; as the prophet is saying:
v.49 'Heaven is my throne and earth is the footstool of my feet; What kind of house will you build for me the Lord is saying; or what is the place of my rest?
v.50 Did not my hand make all these things?'
v.51 Stubborn and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.
v.52 Which one of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand concerning the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;
v.53 you who received the Law as ordained by angels and did not keep it."
v.54 And having heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they began to gnash their teeth at him.
v.55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
v.56 And he said, "Behold! I am seeing the heavens which have been opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God."
v.57 And having cried out with a great voice, they covered their ears and rushed upon him with one purpose.
v.58 And having thrown him outside of the city, they began stoning him, and the witnesses put aside their outer garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.
v.59 And they kept on stoning Stephen, as he was calling upon the Lord and saying: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
v.60 And having knelt down, he cried with a great voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And having said this he fell asleep. And Saul was together with the others approving of his death.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 6:1-7:60 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What was top priority with the apostles, according to verse 4?

3. Summarize the condition of the Christian movement, according to verse 7.

4. How did Stephen present himself to the Sanhedrin, according to verse 15?

5. What are the high points of Stephen's Bible history survey?

6. How does he characterize his listeners, according to verse 51?

7. How did they respond to his message, according to verse 54?

8. What were Stephen's last two prayers in verses 59 & 60?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The top priority for the man and woman of God is prayer and the ministry of the Word.

LESSON #2: Stephen's face reflected the glory of God.

LESSON #3: Stephen traces the plan of salvation from Abraham to Christ.

LESSON #4: God always accomplishes His purpose in His time.

LESSON #5: Stephen is making the last offer to the nation Israel of the kingdom.

LESSON #6: God is not dwelling in houses made by human hands.

LESSON #7: Stephen caught a glimpse of glory just before he died.

LESSON #8: Stephen prays for forgiveness of his murderers.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX – ACTS 8:1-40

NOTES

v. 1 Then on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
v. 2 And some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.
v. 3 But Saul kept on ravaging the church, entering house after house, dragging off both men and women, handing them over to prison.
v. 4 Therefore, those who were scattered went about proclaiming the good news of the word.
v. 5 And Philip, having gone down to the city of Samaria, began proclaiming Christ to them.
v. 6 And the multitudes with one accord were giving attention to the things spoken by Philip, hearing them and seeing the signs which he was performing.
v. 7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

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v. 8 And there was much rejoicing in that city.
v. 9 Now there was a certain man whose name was Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;
v.10 to whom they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention, saying, “This man is what is called the great power of God.”
v.11 And they were giving attention to him because for a considerable length of time he had astonished them with his magic arts.
v.12 Now when they believed Philip, as he was proclaiming the good news concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized both men and women.
v.13 And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he was continuing on with Philip; observing signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.
v.14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,
v.15 who came down and prayed for them, in order that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
v.16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; but they had been baptized only into the name of the Lord Jesus.
v.17 Then they were laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.
v.18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was being given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money,
v.19 saying, “Give to me also this authority, in order that everyone on whom I lay my hands may be receiving the Holy Spirit.”
v.20 But Peter said to him: “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!
v.21 You are not having a part in this matter concerning which I am speaking, for your heart is not right before God.
v.22 Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and beseech the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.
v.23 For I am seeing that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”
v.24 Then Simon answering said, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that none of the things of which you have spoken may come upon me.”
v.25 Then after they had borne their testimony and had spoken the word of the Lord, they were starting back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.
v.26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This road is in a desert.)
v.27 And he arose and went; and behold, a man, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a royal official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; who had come to Jerusalem for the purpose of worshipping.
v.28 And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.
v.29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”
v.30 And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
v.31 And he said, “How am I able to unless someone guides me? And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

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v.32 Now the passage of scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He does not open His mouth.
v.33 In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who shall describe his origin? For His life is taken from the earth."
v.34 And the eunuch answering Philip said: "I am begging of you, concerning whom is the prophet saying this? Concerning himself or concerning someone else?"
v.35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this scripture he preached Jesus to him.
v.36 And as they were proceeding along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What is hindering me from being baptized?"
v.37 (omitted in earlier manuscripts)
v.38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.
v.39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.
v.40 But Philip was found at Azotus; and passing through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 8:1-40 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What happened to the church after Stephen's death, according to verse 1?

3. What did those people do who were scattered by the persecution, according to verse 4?

4. What does Simon do wrong, according to verses 18-20?

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5. What did the angel of the Lord say to Philip in verse 26?

6. To whom did Philip witness in the desert, according to verse 27?

7. Describe Philip's technique in sharing his faith with this man.

8. According to Philip, who is Isaiah the prophet speaking about in Isaiah 53:34,35?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

LESSON #2: The persecution is permitted by God for a purpose.

LESSON #3: Nothing can stop these early followers of Christ from preaching the Word.

LESSON #4: The message spreads north to Samaria.

LESSON #5: Simon is a man of: profession without possession, association without acceptance, and religion without relationship

LESSON #6: You cannot buy the gift of God with money.

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LESSON #7: Facts, faith, and feelings are the divine order of things.

LESSON #8: Philip is a great illustration of how we are to witness to those who need to know Christ.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – ACTS 9:1-43

NOTES

v. 1 Now Saul still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,
v. 2 and asked from him letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
v. 3 And it came about as he was proceeding on his journey, he was drawing near to Damascus. And suddenly there flashed around him a light out of heaven.
v. 4 And having fallen upon the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
v. 5 And he said: "Who are you, Lord?" And He said: "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.
v. 6 But arise and go into the city, and it shall be told you what you must do."
v. 7 And the men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.
v. 8 And Saul arose from the ground, but having opened his eyes, he was seeing nothing. And leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.
v. 9 And he was three days not seeing, and he did not eat or drink.
v.10 Now there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias"; and he said, "Behold, I am here, Lord."
v.11 And the Lord said to him, "Arise, proceed to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one whose name is Saul from Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.
v.12 And he saw a man in a vision whose name is Ananias, who came and laid his hands upon him, so that he might regain his sight."
v.13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he did to your saints in Jerusalem.
v.14 And here he is having authority from the chief priests to bind all those who are calling on your name."
v.15 But the Lord said to him, "Be going on your way, because he is a chosen vessel of mine, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

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v.16 for I will show him how many things it is necessary for him to suffer on behalf of my name."
v.17 Then Ananias departed and entered the house, and having placed his hands upon him, he said: "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
v.18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized.
v.19 And having taken nourishment, he was strengthened. Then he was with the disciples in Damascus for several days.
v.20 And immediately in the synagogues he began proclaiming Jesus, that "He is the Son of God."
v.21 And all those hearing were continuing to be amazed, and were saying: "Is not this man he who made havoc among those who in Jerusalem are calling upon this name, and who has come here for this purpose in order that having bound them he might bring them before the chief priests?"
v.22 And Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus, proving that this very person is the Christ.
v.23 Now when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him.
v.24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they were also watching the gates both day and night so that they might put him to death;
v.25 but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through an opening in the wall, having lowered him in a basket.
v.26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples and all were fearing him, not believing that he was a disciple.
v.27 But Barnabas taking an interest in him brought him to the apostles and described to them how on the road he saw the Lord, and that He spoke to him, and how in Damascus he spoke out boldly in the name of Jesus.
v.28 And he was with them going in and going out in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.
v.29 And he was talking and arguing with the Jews who had adopted Greek culture, but they were attempting to put him to death.
v.30 But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.
v.31 So then the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria was having peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it was continuing to grow.
v.32 Now it came about that as Peter was travelling through all those parts, he came down also to the saints who were residing in Lydda.
v.33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.
v.34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ is healing you; arise, and make your bed." And immediately he arose.
v.35 And all those who were residing in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.
v.36 Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha (which translated is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding in good works and charity, which she was continually doing.

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v.37 And it came about in those days that she became ill and died; and when they washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.
v.38 Now since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, entreating him, "Do not delay to come to us."
v.39 And Peter arose and went with them. And when he had come, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.
v.40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and having turned to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
v.41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and having called the saints and the widows, he presented her alive.
v.42 And it became known throughout the whole of Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
v.43 And it came about that he stayed many days in Joppa with a certain tanner, Simon.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 9:1-43 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Saul still doing, according to verses 1 & 2?

3. Describe what happens to Saul in verses 3-6.

4. What does the Lord ask Ananias to do, and how does he respond in verses 10-17?

5. What does Saul do in verse 20?

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6. How do the Jews respond to this new Christian, according to verses 23 & 24?

7. What kind of a response did Saul get in Jerusalem from the Christians there, according to verse 26?

8. Describe what Peter does for Dorcas in verses 36-42.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: No one is too difficult for the Lord to reach.

LESSON #2: The Lord does hurt when we hurt.

LESSON #3: Each of us are vessels in the Master's hand for His use and service.

LESSON #4: Ananias is submissive and obedient to his Lord.

LESSON #5: Saul is filled with the Spirit without any of the accompanying supernatural phenomena.

LESSON #6: Saul preaches Jesus as the Son of God and as the Christ.

LESSON #7: Jesus Christ is the One who is healing Aeneas.

LESSON #8: Dorcas is a good, gracious, gentle, godly woman.

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LESSON #9: The healing of Aeneas and the resurrection of Dorcas provide opportunities for great evangelism.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT – ACTS 10:1-48

NOTES

v. 1 Now there was a certain man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,
v. 2 a pious man, and one who is fearing God with all his household, who gave many gifts of charity to the Jewish people, and who prayed to God continually.
v. 3 He saw in a vision clearly about the ninth hour of the day (3:00 p.m.) an angel of God who came into him, and said to him, "Cornelius!"
v. 4 And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your gifts of charity ascended as a memorial before God.
v. 5 And now send men to Joppa, and fetch a certain Simon, who I also called Peter.
v. 6 He is lodging with a certain tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea."
v. 7 And when the angel who was speaking to him departed, he summoned two of his household slaves and a pious soldier who were in constant attendance upon him,
v. 8 and after he narrated the entire matter to them, he sent them to Joppa.
v. 9 Now on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour (12:00 noon) to pray.
v.10 And he became very hungry and was desiring to eat; and while they were preparing the meal, an ecstasy came upon him;
v.11 and he is beholding the heaven having been opened, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, being let down by four corners to the ground,
v.12 in which there were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and birds of the heaven.
v.13 And there came a voice to him: "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!"
v.14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, because I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."
v.15 And again a voice spoke a second time to him: "The things which God cleansed, as for you, stop considering unclean."
v.16 And this occurred three times. And immediately the object was taken up into heaven.

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v.17 Now while Peter was completely at a loss as to what the vision which he saw might be, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made diligent inquiry regarding the home of Simon, stood at the gate.
v.18 And having called, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was lodging there.
v.19 And while Peter was earnestly pondering in his mind the matter concerning the vision, the Spirit said, "Behold, two men are looking for you.
v.20 But arise, go down at once and be going on your way with them without any hesitation, because I have sent them myself."
v.21 Then Peter having gone down to the men said: "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your being here?"
v.22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a man who is upright and who is fearing God, who is being highly recommended by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely commanded by a holy angel to send for you to come to his home and to hear words from you."
v.23 And so he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day, having arose, he went with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.
v.24 And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends.
v.25 And when it came about that Peter entered, Cornelius having met him, having fallen at his feet, prostrated himself in an expression of profound respect.
v.26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."
v.27 And as he was conversing with him, he entered, and is finding many gathered together.
v.28 And he said to them, "You yourselves are understanding how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate or to visit with a foreigner. And yet to me God showed that I am not to be calling any man unholy or unclean.
v.29 Wherefore I also came without debating the issue when I was sent for. I am inquiring therefore, for what reason did you send for me?"
v.30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my home during the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.); and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,
v.31 and he said: 'Cornelius, your prayer was heard and your deeds of charity are held in remembrance as a memorial before God.
v.32 Send therefore to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is lodging in the home of Simon the tanner by the sea.'
v.33 And so I sent to you immediately, and you did well in coming. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."
v.34 And Peter having opened his mouth, said, "Of a truth I am in the process of comprehending the fact that God is not one to show partiality.
v.35 But in every nation the man who is fearing Him and who is working righteousness is acceptable with Him.
v.36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, proclaiming as good news peace through Jesus Christ, [this One is Lord of all]
v.37 you yourselves are knowing the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

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v.38 Jesus, the one from Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were being oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.
v.39 And we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they also killed by hanging Him on a cross.
v.40 This One God raised up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible,
v.41 not to all the people, but to witnesses, who had been designated beforehand by God, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.
v.42 And He ordered us to proclaim to the people, and to bear testimony that this is the One who was appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead.
v.43 To this One all the prophets are bearing testimony that through His name everyone who is believing in Him has received forgiveness of sins."
v.44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were hearing the Word.
v.45 And the believers who belonged to the circumcision as many as came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.
v.46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,
v.47 "Surely no one can forbid the water in order that these may be baptized who received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"
v.48 Then he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 10:1-48 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe Cornelius from what you learn about him in verse 2.

3. What does the Lord tell Cornelius to do, according to verse 5?

4. What is the significance of the vision that Peter has in verses 11-16?

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5. What does Peter begin by saying when he gets to the house of Cornelius in verse 28, and how does that relate to the previous vision?

6. What does Peter mean by his statement in verse 34?

7. What had Jesus commanded Peter and the rest of the apostles to do, according to verse 42?

8. What happened to the Gentile believers in verse 44?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is now time for the gospel to spread to the Gentiles.

LESSON #2: Our prayers and gifts ascend as a memorial before God.

LESSON #3: Prayer ought to be a primary priority in our lives.

LESSON #4: You cannot say “no” and “Lord” in the same sentence.

LESSON #5: God’s timing is always perfect.

LESSON #6: God is not one to show partiality.

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LESSON #7: The life, death, resurrection, and second coming of Jesus in judgment is the content of Peter's message.

LESSON #8: Believing here is the single condition for forgiveness of sins.

LESSON #9: The coming of the Spirit, once again, is unanimous on this occasion.

LESSON #10: Speaking in languages is a sign of judgment to the nation Israel.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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A Practical Study of ACTS: Take It to Them!

"Putting the GO Back in the GOspel"

PART II

STUDY NUMBER NINE – ACTS 11:1-12:25 **NOTES**

v. 1 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also received the word of God.
v. 2 And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision were taking issue with him,
v. 3 saying, "You entered the house of men who were uncircumcised and ate with them."
v. 4 But Peter having begun was explaining to them point by point saying,
v. 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and I being in a state of ecstasy saw a vision, a certain vessel like a great sheet coming down, being lowered by four corners out of heaven, and it came right down to me.
v. 6 And when I fixed my gaze upon it, I was observing it. And I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the reptiles and the birds of the heaven.
v. 7 And I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; kill and eat.'
v. 8 But I said: 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'
v. 9 But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'The things which God cleansed, no longer consider unholy.'
v.10 And this happened three times, and everything was drawn up again into heaven.
v.11 And behold, immediately three men appeared before the house in which we were, sent from Caesarea to me.
v.12 And the Spirit told me to go with them without any hesitation. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered into the house of the man.

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v.13 Then he reported to us how he saw the angel in his house stand and say: 'Send to Joppa, and bring back Simon, who is also called Peter,
v.14 who will speak words to you by which you shall be saved, you and all your household.'
v.15 Now when I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as [He did] upon us at the beginning.
v.16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He was saying: 'John baptized by means of water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit.'
v.17 If God therefore gave to them the same gift as also to us who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I would be able to hinder God?"
v.18 And when they heard these things, they were silent and glorified God, saying: "Well then, God also gave to the Gentiles the repentance resulting in life."
v.19 So then, those who were scattered because of the affliction that arose in connection with Stephen, passed through the country as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to nobody except only to Jews.
v.20 Now there were certain ones of these, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and were speaking to the Greek speaking Jews, bringing the good news of the Lord Jesus.
v.21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.
v.22 Then the word concerning them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem. And they sent Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.
v.23 Who, having come and having seen the grace of God, rejoiced and was encouraging them all with purpose of heart to keep on remaining true to the Lord;
v.24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith; and there were added to the Lord many people.
v.25 Then he left for Tarsus to search for Saul.
v.26 And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for a whole year they were gathered together with the church and taught many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
v.27 Now in these days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
v.28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and was indicating through the Spirit that there was about to be a great famine over the whole inhabited earth, which occurred at the time of Claudius.
v.29 And the disciples each of them according to his financial ability determined to send things which would minister to the needs of those brethren who were living in Judea.
v.30 And this they did, having sent them to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.
12:v. 1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some of those who belonged to the church, for the purpose of mistreating them.
v. 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.
v. 3 And when he saw that it was pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now they were the days of Unleavened Bread.
v. 4 And having apprehended him, he put him in prison, having delivered him to four squads (16) of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.
v. 5 Therefore Peter was continually being guarded in the prison, but prayer was being made constantly by the church to God concerning him.

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v. 6 Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by two chains; and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.
v. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and having gently tapped Peter's side, he raised him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.
v. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your belt and bind on your sandals." And he did this. And he is saying to him: "Wrap your cloak around you and keep on following me."
v. 9 And having gone out, he kept on following, and he did not know that it was true, namely, that which was taking place through the angel, but he kept on thinking that he was seeing a vision.
v.10 Now when they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that is leading into the city, which opened for them automatically; and having gone out they went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.
v.11 And when Peter came to himself, he said: "Now I am knowing truly the Lord sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from every expectation of the people of the Jews."
v.12 Now when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who is also called Mark, where there were many who had come together and were praying.
v.13 Now when he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.
v.14 And when she recognized the voice of Peter, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but having run in she announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.
v.15 But they said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. But they kept on saying, "It is his angel."
v.16 But Peter was continuing knocking; and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.
v.17 And having beckoned to them with his hand to keep quiet, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said: "Report these things to James and the brethren." And having gone out, he went to another place.
v.18 Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers as to what therefore had become of Peter.
v.19 And after Herod had made a careful search for him and did not find him, having questioned the guards, he ordered that they be led away to execution; and he went down from Judea to Caesarea and was spending time there.
v.20 Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won the favor of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they went asking for peace, because their country received its supplies of food from the country of the king.
v.21 And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the judgment seat, and was delivering an address to them.
v.22 And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"
v.23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

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v.24 But the word of the Lord was continuing to grow and to be multiplying.
v.25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they completed their ministry, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 11:1-12:25 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Peter respond to the Jewish Christians and their concern about Gentile salvation, according to verse 17?

3. What is the Jewish Christians' response to Peter's words in verse 18?

4. What did Herod do in chapter 12:1-3?

5. Describe Peter's deliverance from prison in verses 7-11.

6. What is the response of the believers to Peter's deliverance, according to verse 15?

7. What do the people say about Herod in verse 22?

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8. Why is Herod struck by the angel of the Lord, according to verse 23?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is God's purpose that the message of the gospel be preached to the whole world.

LESSON #2: When things happen that we do not understand, how precious to remember what the Lord has said.

LESSON #3: The single condition of salvation is believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #4: Affliction and persecution are God's means of spreading the message.

LESSON #5: Is the hand of the Lord evident in your life?

LESSON #6: The Christian response to legitimate need is to give what we can.

LESSON #7: When we don't understand what the Lord is doing, we just have to trust His greater plan.

LESSON #8: The church's greatest weapon against a godless world is prayer.

LESSON #9: The Lord often waits until the last minute because He loves to have His people praying and dependent.

LESSON #10: How careful we must be to give God the glory for the work He is doing in our lives and through our lives in the lives of others.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TEN – ACTS 13:1-14:28

NOTES

v. 1 Now there were in Antioch in the church which was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
v. 2 Now while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said: "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
v. 3 Then when they fasted and prayed and laid their hands upon them, they sent them away.
v. 4 So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
v. 5 And having come to Salamis, they were proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they were also having John as their helper.
v. 6 And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain man, a magician, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-Jesus,
v. 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding (intelligence). This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.
v. 8 But Elymas the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn away the proconsul from the faith.
v. 9 But Saul, who is also called Paul, having been filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him.
v.10 And said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, son of the devil, enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the right ways of the Lord?
v.11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dimness of the eyes and a darkness fell upon him, and going about, he was seeking someone to lead him by the hand.
v.12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.
v.13 Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John, having withdrawn from them, returned to Jerusalem.
v.14 But having gone on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and having gone into the synagogue on the day of the Sabbath, seated themselves.
v.15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Men, brethren, if you are having any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

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v.16 And Paul stood up and motioned with his hand, he said, "Men of Israel, and those who fear God, give me your attention:
v.17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.
v.18 And for about a period of forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.
v.19 And having destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years.
v.20 And after these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.
v.21 And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.
v.22 And after He removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He bore testimony and said: 'I found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all things which are my desires.'
v.23 From the offspring of this man according to promise God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,
v.24 after John proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.
v.25 And when John was finishing his course, he kept on saying, 'What are you supposing that I am? I am not He. But behold one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'
v.26 Men, brethren, sons of the family of Abraham and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation was sent forth,
v.27 for those who are residing in Jerusalem and their rulers, having been ignorant of this One and the voices of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, in condemning Him fulfilled this word.
v.28 And though not having found even one cause of death in Him, they asked Pilate that He be destroyed.
v.29 And when they carried out all the things which were written concerning Him, having taken Him down from the cross, they laid Him in a tomb.
v.30 But God raised Him from the dead;
v.31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.
v.32 And we are bringing good news to you of the promise which was made to the fathers,
v.33 that God has completely fulfilled this to our children, having raised up Jesus, as also in the second Psalm it stands written: 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.'
v.34 Now that He raised Him from the dead, no longer destined to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give to you the holy things of David, the trustworthy things.'
v.35 Therefore also in another Psalm He is saying: 'You will not appoint your Holy One to see corruption.'
v.36 For indeed, David after he served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and saw corruption.
v.37 But He whom God raised up did not see corruption.
v.38 Let it be known, therefore, to you, men, brethren, that through this One forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you.

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v.39 And through Him everyone who is believing is being set free from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.
v.40 Be taking heed, therefore, lest there come upon you that which has been spoken by the prophets:
v.41 'Behold, you scoffers, and wonder and perish; because I am accomplishing a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.'"
v.42 Now as they were going out, they were begging that these words might be spoken to them the next Sabbath.
v.43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and the proselytes who were worshipping followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to be continuing in the grace of God.
v.44 And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God.
v.45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and were speaking against the things which were being spoken by Paul, saying slanderous and evil things.
v.46 And having become bold, Paul and Barnabas said: "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; since you are repudiating it, and you are judging yourselves not worthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.
v.47 For thus the Lord has commanded us; 'I have appointed you as a light for the Gentiles, in order that you may be for salvation to the end of the earth.'"
v.48 Now the Gentiles, hearing this, were rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to life eternal believed.
v.49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.
v.50 But the Jews aroused the worshipping women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their boundaries.
v.51 But having shaken off the dust of their feet against them, they went to Iconium.
v.52 And the disciples were being filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
14:v.1 And it came about in Iconium that they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.
v. 2 But the Jews who refused to be persuaded, stirred up the souls (minds) of the Gentiles, and embittered them against the brethren.
v. 3 Therefore they spent a long time there, speaking boldly in reliance up on the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, giving signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
v. 4 But the multitude of the city was divided; and some were with the Jews, and some with the apostles.
v. 5 Now when there arose a hostile attempt on the part of both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them,
v. 6 having become aware of it, they fled for refuge to the cities of Lycaonia: Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region;
v. 7 and there they were continuing to proclaim the good news.
v. 8 And a certain man was sitting at Lystra who was without strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

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v. 9 This man was listening to Paul speaking, who, having fixed his gaze upon him, and having seen that he is having faith to be saved,
v.10 said with a loud voice: “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and was walking around.
v.11 And when the crowds saw what Paul did, they raised their voice in the Lycaonian language saying: “The gods having become like men, came down to us.”
v.12 And they were calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the leader of the speaking.
v.13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of the city, having brought oxen and garlands to the gates, was desiring to offer sacrifice with the crowds.
v.14 But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, having torn their robes, they rushed out into the crowd, crying out
v.15 and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, proclaiming the good news to you in order that you should turn from these things that are futile to God who is living, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things which are in them.
v.16 Who in the generations gone by permitted all the nations to be proceeding along their ways of life.
v.17 And yet He did not leave himself without a witness, in that He was doing good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and good cheer.”
v.18 And even saying these things, they with difficulty restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.
v.19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, and having stoned Paul, they were dragging him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.
v.20 But while the disciples stood around him, he arose and entered the city. And the next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.
v.21 And proclaiming the good news in that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,
v.22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to be persevering in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”
v.23 And having appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
v.24 And they passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia.
v.25 And having spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia;
v.26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, from which place they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled (accomplished).
v.27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all things that God did with them and that He opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.
v.28 And they were spending not a little time with the disciples.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 13:1-14:28 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the Spirit of God tell the spiritual leaders of the church in Antioch in verse 2?

3. What does Saul say to Elymas in verses 10 & 11?

4. What happened to John Mark, according to verse 13?

5. How does Saul describe his mission, according to verses 32 & 33?

6. What is the single condition of salvation, according to verse 39?

7. How do Paul and Barnabas respond to the Jewish opposition, according to verse 46?

8. Describe the responses in Lystra to the gospel by describing their treatment of the apostles in chapter 14:8-19.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God wants to speak to us. The question is, are we listening?

LESSON #2: Prayer, worship, and serving the needs of others are all part of ministering to the Lord.

LESSON #3: Satan's masterpiece is a counterfeit of that which is real.

LESSON #4: Satan will fight and frustrate the Gospel of Christ.

LESSON #5: The hand of the Lord will be upon us in judgment or blessing.

LESSON #6: John Mark was not a finisher in this project.

LESSON #7: Peter's message magnifies the person of the Lord Jesus.

LESSON #8: There is forgiveness and freedom to everyone who is believing.

LESSON #9: There is a fine line between the glory and the gory.

LESSON #10: The apostles expected persecution and opposition as part of God's program for them.

LESSON #11: Nothing stopped them from a successful completion of their mission.

LESSON #12: God worked with them and through them on this first missionary journey.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN – ACTS 15:1-41

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v. 1 And some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you are not able to be saved.”
v. 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had not a little dissension and debate with them, it was determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them, should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
v. 3 Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the turning of the Gentiles, and were giving great joy to all the brethren.
v. 4 And when they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God did with them.
v. 5 But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying that “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and to be commanding them to keep the Law of Moses.”
v. 6 Both the apostles and the elders came together to see about this word.
v. 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter having stood up, said to them, “Men, brethren, you are knowing that from days of old God made a choice among you, that through my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the good news and believe.
v. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, having given them the Holy Spirit, even as also to us.
v. 9 And He was making no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.
v.10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
v.11 But we are believing that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”
v.12 Then all the multitude kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God did through them among the Gentiles.
v.13 And after they stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Men, brethren, listen to me.
v.14 Simeon explained how God first concerned Himself about winning a people from among the Gentiles for His name.
v.15 And with this the words of the Prophets are agreeing, just as it has been written:
v.16 ‘After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen. And I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,
v.17 in order that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name has been called,
v.18 says the Lord, who is making these things known from of old.’
v.19 Therefore it is my judgment that we are not to be troubling those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,
v.20 but that we write to them that they be abstaining from the pollutions of the idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

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v.21 For Moses from ancient generations is having in every city those who are preaching him, since he is being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."
v.22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders with the whole church, having selected men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas the one called Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,
v.23 writing through their hand [as follows]: "The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.
v.24 In view of the fact that we heard that some of our number disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, to whom we gave no instruction,
v.25 it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to send men who were selected from our number to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
v.26 men who have given over their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
v.27 Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, and they themselves will report the same things by word of mouth.
v.28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these things which are necessary,
v.29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; from which if you are keeping yourselves free, you will do well. Farewell."
v.30 So, when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered together the whole assembly, they delivered the letter.
v.31 And when they read it, they burst into ecstatic joy because of its encouragement.
v.32 And both Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, through much discourse exhorted and encouraged (strengthened) the brethren.
v.33 And after they spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who sent them out.
v.34 [omitted in better manuscripts] But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.
v.35 But Paul and Barnabas were continuing their stay in Antioch with many others also, teaching and proclaiming the good news, the word of the Lord.
v.36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Now let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, seeing how they are getting along."
v.37 Now Barnabas was desiring that they take along with them also John, the one called Mark.
v.38 But Paul was insisting that they should not take him along, this one who went away from them from Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.
v.39 Now a sharp disagreement arose, so that they separated from one another, and Barnabas having taken Mark with him, set sail for Cyprus.
v.40 But Paul having chosen Silas, went forth, having been commended by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.
v.41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening (encouraging) the churches.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 13:1-14:28 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. State the major issue to be handled at the Jerusalem Council, according to verses 1 & 2.

3. Summarize Peter's address in verses 7-11.

4. How does James feel about the matter in verses 19-21?

5. What was the response of the Christians at Antioch to the decision of the council, according to verse 31?

6. What does Paul want to do, according to verse 36?

7. What causes the sharp division between Paul and Barnabas, according to verses 37 & 38?

8. What do Paul and Barnabas do in verses 39 & 40?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: All additions to the simple message of the gospel are man-made.

LESSON #2: We are freed from the Law and its demands when we come to know Jesus Christ.

LESSON #3: When error is taught, it unsettles and disturbs young believers.

LESSON #4: It is the Lord's greatest desire that we be of one mind.

LESSON #5: Exhortation and encouragement ought to be bound together in our ministry to others.

LESSON #6: The conflict between Paul and Barnabas results in two teams going out to minister.

LESSON #7: An attitude of non-acceptance intensifies the hurt rather than helps to heal.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER TWELVE – ACTS 16:1-40

NOTES

v. 1 And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.
v. 2 He was constantly being well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.
v. 3 This one Paul wanted to go forth with him. And having taken him, he circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.
v. 4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering to them the decrees for them to be keeping which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

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v. 5 So then the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.
v. 6 Then they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.
v. 7 And when they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;
v. 8 and having passed by Mysia, they came down to Troas.
v. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul during the night. A certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
v.10 And when he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go forth into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to tell them the good news.
v.11 Then having set sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;
v.12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a [Roman] colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.
v.13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate along the river bank, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and having seated ourselves we were speaking to the women who had come together.
v.14 And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, one who is worshipping God, was listening, whose heart the Lord opened so that she kept her mind concentrated upon the things which were spoken by Paul.
v.15 Now, when she was baptized and her household, she begged us, saying, "Since you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, having come into my house be abiding." And she prevailed upon us.
v.16 And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.
v.17 This girl, following after Paul and us, was crying out saying: "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."
v.18 And she kept on doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and having turned around he said to the spirit, "I am commanding you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out at that very time (instantly).
v.19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone out, having seized Paul and Silas, they dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.
v.20 And when they brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are causing a great deal of trouble in our city, being Jews,
v.21 and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to be accepting or to be doing, being Romans."
v.22 And the crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates having torn off their robes, were issuing orders to be beating them with rods.
v.23 And having inflicted many blows up on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to be guarding them securely;

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v.24 who, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks.
v.25 But about midnight Paul and Silas praying were singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;
v.26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison-house were caused to totter; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened.
v.27 And the jailer, having been roused out of sleep and having seen the doors of the prison opened, having drawn out his sword, was about to be killing himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.
v.28 But Paul cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here!"
v.29 Then having asked for a light, he rushed in and having become terrified, he fell down before Paul and Silas.
v.30 And after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
v.31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.
v.32 And they spoke to him the word of God together with all who were in his house.
v.33 And having taken them that very hour of the night, he washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized and all those who belonged to him.
v.34 And having brought them up into his home, he set a table before them and rejoiced greatly with his whole household, having believed in God.
v.35 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."
v.36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Now therefore, having come out, be going on your way in peace."
v.37 But Paul was saying to them, "Having beaten us publicly without a trial, men who are Romans, they threw us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."
v.38 Then the policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. And they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.
v.39 And having come, they begged them, and when they brought them out they were asking them to go away from the city.
v.40 And after they went out of the prison, they went to the home of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they exhorted them and departed.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 16:1-40 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Who does Paul find in Lystra that becomes a very close associate of his,according to verses 1-3?

3. What was the response to their ministry, according to verse 5?

4. What happens to Paul, according to verse 9?

5. Who is the first convert in Macedonia, according to verse 14?

6. What got Paul and Silas into trouble, according to verses 16-19?

7. How did Paul and Silas respond to beating and imprisonment, according to verse 25?

8. What happens in verses 26-31 in response to Paul and Silas's prayer and praise?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God brought Timothy into Paul's life as a very special gift.

LESSON #2: Edification and evangelism was Paul's two-fold purpose in his ministry.

LESSON #3: Prayer is a vital part of Paul's ministry.

LESSON #4: The Lord opened Lydia's heart so she would respond to Him.

LESSON #5: Satan is actively involved in opposition to the teaching of the Word and the preaching of the Gospel.

LESSON #6: Nothing could stop Paul and Silas from praying and praising the Lord at midnight.

LESSON #7: Have you ever asked the question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

LESSON #8: Have you ever believed in the Lord Jesus and been saved? If so, when?

LESSON #9: All the supernatural phenomena are gone in the conversion of these Philippians.

LESSON #10: God has protected and provided for His children once again in these circumstances.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THIRTEEN – ACTS 17:1-34

NOTES

v. 1 Now when they traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
v. 2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths he was reasoning with them from the Scriptures,
v. 3 explaining and pointing out that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead, and that this man is the Christ, this Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.
v. 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, [along with] a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

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v. 5 But the Jews became jealous and took along some wicked men from the marketplace and having formed a mob, they were setting the city in an uproar; and having rushed at the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.
v. 6 And when they did not find them, they were dragging Jason and some brethren before the city officials, shouting, “These men who upset the world have come here also;
v. 7 whom Jason has welcomed, and they all are doing things contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”
v. 8 And they stirred up the crowd and the city officials who were hearing these things.
v. 9 And when they received a bond from Jason and the others, they released them.
v.10 And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; who, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews.
v.11 Now, these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, who received the word with all willingness, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.
v.12 Many of them therefore believed, and not a few of the prominent Greek women and men.
v.13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there likewise, agitating and stirring up the crowds.
v.14 And then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to be proceeding as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy were remaining there.
v.15 Now those who were bringing Paul brought him as far as Athens; and having received a command for Silas and Timothy to the effect that they should come to him as soon as possible, they departed.
v.16 Now, while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols.
v.17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing [Gentiles], and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.
v.18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were disputing with him, and some were saying: “What would this picker up of seeds wish to say?” but others were saying: “He is seeming to be a proclaimer of strange deities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
v.19 And having taken him, they brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we come to know what this new teaching is, which is being spoken by you?
v.20 For you are bringing some surprising things to our ears; we are wanting to know therefore what the intent of these things is.”
v.21 (Now all Athenians and the strangers visiting there were devoting their leisure time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)
v.22 Then Paul having stood in the midst of the Areopagus was saying: “Men of Athens, I am observing that you are very religious people in all respects.
v.23 For when I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar upon which was written, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ What therefore you are worshipping without knowing it, this I am proclaiming to you.

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v.24 The God who made the world and all things in it, this God being Lord of heaven and earth, is not dwelling in temples made with hands;
v.25 neither is He being served by human hands, as though He is needing anything, since He Himself is giving to all life and breath and all things;
v.26 and He made from one every nation of mankind to be living upon all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,
v.27 in order that they should be seeking God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
v.28 for in Him we are living and moving and being, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'
v.29 Therefore being the offspring of God, we ought not to be thinking that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something fashioned by the skill and thought of man.
v.30 Now, therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should be repenting,
v.31 because He appointed a day in which He is about to be judging the inhabited earth in righteousness through a man whom He appointed, having furnished proof to all men when He raised Him from the dead."
v.32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some were sneering but others said, "We shall hear you also again concerning this."
v.33 So Paul went out of their midst.
v.34 But some men having joined themselves to him, believed, among whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 17:1-34 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the response to Paul and Silas's ministry in Thessalonica in verses 4 & 5?

3. What is the response from those in Berea, according to verse 11?

4. What provoked Paul when he arrived at Athens, according to verse 16?

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5. How does Paul build a bridge to the men of Athens in verses 22 & 23?

6. How does Paul describe a relationship to God, according to verse 28?

7. What is God telling us to do, according to verse 30?

8. Whom has God chosen to be judging the inhabited earth, according to verse 31?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is our responsibility to take the initiative. You gotta take it to them!

LESSON #2: Paul's witness is three-fold: 1) the Scriptures; 2) the Christ; and 3) the resurrection.

LESSON #3: God does not promise exemption from persecution.

LESSON #4: Will you, like the Bereans, receive the Word with all willingness of mind, examining the Scriptures?

LESSON #5: Is God bearing fruit through your life? (John 15:16)

LESSON #6: Do you know the unknown God?

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LESSON #7: Jesus is coming, and He will be a judge.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOURTEEN – ACTS 18:1-28

NOTES

v. 1 After these things having left Athens he went to Corinth.
v. 2 And when he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy and Priscilla his wife, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He went to them,
v. 3 and because he was of the same occupation, he was staying with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers.
v. 4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.
v. 5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was wholly absorbed in the Word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.
v. 6 And when they were resisting and reviling, he having shaken off his garments said to them: "Your blood be upon your own heads, I am clean; from now on I shall go to the Gentiles."
v. 7 And having departed from there he went to the house of a certain man named Titius Justus, one who is worshipping God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.
v. 8 And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they were hearing were believing and were being baptized.
v. 9 And the Lord said to Paul during the night through a vision: "Stop being afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent;
v.10 for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I am having many people in this city."
v.11 And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
v.12 Now when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment-seat,
v.13 saying, "This man is persuading men to be worshipping God contrary to the law."
v.14 And when Paul was about to be opening his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or a serious piece of villainy, O Jews, I would have been justified in accepting your complaint.
v.15 But since it is a parcel of questions concerning words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am not willing to be a judge of these matters."
v.16 And he drove them away from the judgment-seat.

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v.17 Then they all, having seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and were beating him in front of the judgment seat. And Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.
v.18 And Paul, having remained many days longer, having said farewell to the brethren, was setting sail for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila, having his hair cut in Cenchrea for he was keeping a vow.
v.19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, and he himself having entered into the synagogue, reasoned with the Jews.
v.20 Now when they were asking him to remain for a longer time, he did not consent,
v.21 but having bid them adieu and having said: "I will return again to you if God is desiring it," he sailed from Ephesus.
v.22 And when he landed at Caesarea, having gone up and having greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.
v.23 And having spent some time there, he departed, passing successively through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.
v.24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent (cultured) man, came down to Ephesus, being a powerful man in the Scriptures.
v.25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John.
v.26 And this man began to be speaking out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
v.27 Now when he was wanting to go through into Achaia, the brethren having encouraged him, wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he arrived, he helped greatly those who had believed through grace.
v.28 For he was powerfully refuting the Jews publicly, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 18:1-28 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What couple does Paul meet in Corinth and how are they similar, according to verses 2 & 3?

3. Who joined him in Corinth, according to verse 5?

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4. What outstanding person became a Christian, according to verse 8?

5. How does the Lord encourage His servant ,according to verses 9 & 10?

6. How is Apollos described in verses 24 & 25?

7. What do Priscilla and Aquila do for Apollos, according to verse 26?

8. How does Apollos respond and how has the Lord blessed, according to verses 27 & 28?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The apostle teaches us that we are to earn our keep.

LESSON #2: We find Paul in Corinth, wholly absorbed in the Word.

LESSON #3: God was faithful to fulfill His promise of protection to Paul.

LESSON #4: A true man and woman of God runs deep. They don't talk a lot about their personal disciplines.

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LESSON #5: It is important to know when and have the ability to say no.

LESSON #6: Evangelizing and edifying are both crucial ministries.

LESSON #7: Do you have a burning zeal? And are we fervent in spirit?

LESSON #8: Apollos teaches us no matter how many schools you go to or degrees you get, there will still be lessons for us to learn from the simplest of men.

LESSON #9: We must not demonstrate a dogmatic, know-it-all attitude in relationship to fellow believers.

LESSON #10: Encouraging the young and gently giving criticism is big business in God's economy.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN – ACTS 19:1-41

NOTES

v. 1 Now it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples,
v. 2 and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him: "No, we did not even hear that there is a Holy Spirit."
v. 3 And he said: "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said: "Into John's baptism."
v. 4 And Paul said: "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the One who is coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
v. 5 And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
v. 6 And after Paul placed his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they were speaking with tongues and prophesying.
v. 7 And there were in all about twelve men.
v. 8 And having entered the synagogue, he was speaking boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the kingdom of God.
v. 9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the crowd, having withdrawn from them, he took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

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v.10 And this went on for two years, so that all those who are living in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
v.11 And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,
v.12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even being carried from his body to those who are sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
v.13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who were going from place to place, attempted to be naming over those who were having the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I am imploring you by Jesus whom Paul is preaching.”
v.14 Now there were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest who were doing this.
v.15 And the evil spirit answering said to them: “I am recognizing Jesus, and I am knowing about Paul, but who are you?”
v.16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit was leaping upon them, having subdued both of them, overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and having been wounded.
v.17 And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who were living in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.
v.18 Many also of those who had believed were coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.
v.19 And many of those who practiced the magical arts, having brought their books together, were burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver.
v.20 So according to the power of the Lord the word was growing and gaining strength.
v.21 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the spirit, after having gone through Macedonia and Achaia, to be going to Jerusalem, having said, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”
v.22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who were ministering to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.
v.23 And about that time there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way.
v.24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who, making silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no small profit to the craftsmen;
v.25 whom having gathered together also the workmen of similar trades, he said; “Men, you are knowing that we are getting our prosperity from this business.
v.26 And you are seeing and hearing that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul, having persuaded them, turned away a considerable number of people, saying that ‘they are not gods, those being made by hands.’
v.27 And not only is there danger that this trade of ours may come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis being considered as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the inhabited earth is worshipping should even be suffering the loss of her magnificence.”
v.28 Moreover, also having heard these things, having become filled with a boiling rage, they were crying out, saying: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

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v.29 And the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus of Macedonia, Paul's traveling companions.
v.30 And when Paul was wanting to go in to the people, the disciples were not letting him.
v.31 And also some of the chief officers of Asia, who were friends of his, having sent to him, were urging him not to venture into the theater.
v.32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority did not know on whose account they had come together.
v.33 And some of the crowd instructed it was Alexander, since the Jews were putting him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the people.
v.34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, one voice arose from them all, as they were shouting for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians."
v.35 And after having quieted the multitude, the town clerk is saying: "Men of Ephesus, who is there then of men who is not knowing that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, and the image fallen from heaven?
v.36 Since then these are undeniable facts, it is needful for you to restrain yourselves and to be doing nothing rash.
v.37 For you brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blaspheming our goddess.
v.38 So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him are having a complaint against any man, court sessions are now going on and proconsuls are [available]; let them bring charges against one another.
v.39 But if you are wanting anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.
v.40 For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's affair, since there is no real cause for it; and with reference to it we shall not be able to give an account for this disorderly gathering."
v.41 And after having said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 19:1-41 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. When Paul came to Ephesus, what kind of disciples did he run into there, according to verse 3 and following?

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3. What did the evil spirit in verse 15 say to the seven sons of Sceva?

4. What did those who are practicing magical arts do when they became Christians, according to verse 19?

5. What is Demetrius concerned about in verses 24 and following?

6. What is the response of the city of Ephesus to this problem, according to verse 28?

7. How does the town clerk solve the problems in verses 35 and following?

8. What danger are they facing, according to verse 40?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: These disciples in verse 1 are not New Testament Christians.

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LESSON #2: What we are witnessing in the first seven verses of the chapter is not a New Testament precedent.

LESSON #3: God is the One performing the miracles in this passage using Paul as an instrument.

LESSON #4: Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

LESSON #5: The purpose of our ministry is that the name of the Lord Jesus might be magnified.

LESSON #6: Confession and cleansing lead to greater power and fruitfulness.

LESSON #7: Paul is a goal-oriented leader.

LESSON #8: God uses a simple town clerk to accomplish His purposes in this passage.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIXTEEN – ACTS 20:1-38

NOTES

v. 1 And after the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples and having exhorted them, having taken leave of them, he departed to be going to Macedonia.
v. 2 And when he passed through those districts and having exhorted them with much talk, he went to Greece.
v. 3 And having spent three months there, a plot having been formed against him by the Jews as he was about to be sailing for Syria, he became of the opinion to return through Macedonia.
v. 4 And there were accompanying him Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus; and Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; and Gaius of Derbe and Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
v. 5 And these, having gone on ahead, were waiting for us at Troas.
v. 6 And we sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days, where we stayed seven days.
v. 7 And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul was talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he was prolonging his speech until midnight.
v. 8 And there were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together.

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NOTES

v. 9 And there was a certain young man named Eutychus sitting on the window-sill, sinking into a deep sleep; while Paul was continuing his discourse yet longer, having finally been completely overwhelmed by sleep, he fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead.
v.10 But Paul having gone down, fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, “Stop being troubled, for his life is in him.”
v.11 And when he had gone back up, and having broken the bread and having eaten, after talking a long time until daylight, without further ado he departed.
v.12 And they took away the boy alive, and they were not moderately comforted.
v.13 But we, having gone on ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for thus he had arranged it, intending himself to travel on foot.
v.14 And when he was meeting us at Assos, having taken him on board, we came to Mitylene.
v.15 And having set sail from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus.
v.16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might not waste time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if it were possible, on the day of Pentecost.
v.17 And from Miletus, having sent to Ephesus, he called to him the elders of the church.
v.18 And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves are knowing, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,
v.19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which fell upon me through the plots of the Jews;
v.20 how I have kept silent about nothing that is profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
v.21 testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.
v.22 And now, behold, having been bound in spirit, I am proceeding to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,
v.23 except that the Holy Spirit is testifying to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions are awaiting me.
v.24 But I am not considering my life of any account as precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear testimony to the good news of the grace of God.
v.25 And now, behold, I am knowing that you all, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more.
v.26 Therefore I am calling you to witness this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.
v.27 For I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the whole purpose of God.
v.28 Be maintaining a careful watch over yourselves and over all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit appointed you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He acquired with His own blood.
v.29 I am knowing that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
v.30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking things which have been distorted to draw away the disciples after them.

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v.31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
v.32 And now I am giving you over to the Lord and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been set apart for God.
v.33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.
v.34 You yourselves are knowing that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me.
v.35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in manner you must help those who are weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
v.36 And when he said these things, having kneeled upon his knees, he prayed with all of them.
v.37 And there was considerable weeping by all, and having fallen upon Paul's neck they were kissing him,
v.38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 20:1-38 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul do in verse 7 while he is in Troas?

3. What happens to Eutychus, according to verse 9?

4. What does Paul do for Eutychus, according to verse 10?

5. Why was Paul in such a hurry, according to verse 16?

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6. What is Paul's attitude toward his ministry, according to verse 24?

7. What does Paul say he is doing for the Ephesian saints, according to verse 32?

8. What is the response of the Ephesian saints after Paul's message is concluded in verses 37 & 38?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God expects us to be wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

LESSON #2: Paul is disciplining quite a number of men here in this passage.

LESSON #3: Have you made a commitment to fulfill His will, no matter what?

LESSON #4: God delights in a finished course.

LESSON #5: Watch for the dangers without and within.

LESSON #6: Working hard brings glory to God.

LESSON #7: Paul exercises servant leadership in this passage.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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A Practical Study of ACTS: Take It to Them!

"Putting the GO Back in the GOspel"

PART III

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN – ACTS 21:1-40

NOTES

v. 1 And it came about when we set sail, having parted from them, having run a straight course, we came to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes and from there to Patara;
v. 2 and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, having gone on board, we set sail.
v. 3 And when we came in sight of Cyprus, and having left it on the left, we were sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was unloading its cargo.
v. 4 And after a search, having found the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they were telling Paul through the Spirit that he should not be setting foot in Jerusalem.
v. 5 And when it came about that our days there were ended, having departed, we were going on our way while they all, with wives and children, were accompanying us until we were out of the city. And having kneeled upon our knees upon the beach, having prayed, we said farewell to one another.
v. 6 Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.
v. 7 Now when we finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais; and having greeted the brethren, we remained one day with them.
v. 8 And on the next day having departed we came to Caesarea; and having entered the house of Philip the evangelist, he being one of the seven, we stayed with him.
v. 9 Now this man was having four virgin daughters who were prophetesses.
v.10 And while we were staying there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

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v.11 And having come to us, and having taken Paul's belt, having bound his own feet and hands, he said: "This is what the Holy Spirit is saying: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who is owning this belt and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"
v.12 And when we heard this, we as well as the local residents were begging him not to be going up to Jerusalem.
v.13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
v.14 And since he would not be persuaded, we remained silent, having said, "The will of the Lord, let it be done."
v.15 And after these days, having packed our luggage, we were going up to Jerusalem.
v.16 And some of the disciples from Caesarea also came with us, taking us to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge.
v.17 And when we came to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.
v.18 Now, on the next day, Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.
v.19 And after he greeted them he was reporting one by one the things which God did among the Gentiles through his ministry.
v.20 And when they heard it they were glorifying God; and they said to him: "You are seeing, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law.
v.21 And they have been told about you that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to be circumcising their children, nor to be walking according to the customs.
v.22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.
v.23 Therefore do this that we are telling you: There are with us four men who are having a vow on them.
v.24 Having taken them, purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses in order that they may shave their head; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but you also are ordering your behavior according to rule, keeping the Law.
v.25 But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they are to be keeping themselves from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication."
v.26 Then Paul, having taken the men the next day, having purified himself along with them went into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of the purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.
v.27 And when the seven days were about to be completed, the Jews from Asia, having seen him in the temple, were stirring up all the multitude, and they laid their hands on him,
v.28 crying out, "Men of Israel, be coming to our aid! This is the man who is teaching to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."
v.29 For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, whom they were supposing that Paul brought into the temple.
v.30 And all the city was aroused, and a running together of the people occurred; and having seized Paul, they were dragging him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.

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v.31 And while they were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the commander of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.
v.32 Who at once, having taken soldiers and centurions, ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.
v.33 Then the commander when he came up took hold of him and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he was asking who he might be and what it is he had done.
v.34 But among the crowd some were shouting one thing and some another, and when he was not able to come to know the truth on account of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.
v.35 And when he got to the stairs, it so happened that he was being carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob;
v.36 for the multitude of the people were following behind, crying out: "Be doing away with him."
v.37 And as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he is saying to the commander, "Is it lawful for me to say something to you?" And he said: "Are you knowing Greek?"
v.38 "Then you are not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?"
v.39 But Paul said: "I am indeed a man, a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no unimportant city; and I am begging you, allow me to speak to the people."
v.40 And when he gave him permission, Paul, having taken his stand on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew dialect, saying,

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 21:1-40 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What did the disciples in Tyre tell Paul about his intention to go to Jerusalem, according to verse 4?

3. What did the prophet Agabus say to Paul in verse 11?

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4. How did Paul respond to this warning, according to verse 13?

5. What was the initial response of the brethren when they arrived in Jerusalem, according to verse 17?

6. What did the Jews do when they found Paul in the temple, according to verse 28?

7. Who comes to Paul's rescue, according to verses 31 & 32?

8. What is Paul's request of the commander in the last part of the chapter?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Paul is tested twice in our passage with regard to the will of God.

LESSON #2: We need to refrain from determining the will of God for someone else's life.

LESSON #3: Just because it is going to be tough does not mean it is not His will.

LESSON #4: Pleasing God rather than men ought to be our primary objective.

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LESSON #5: You will never legislate genuine godliness by the law.

LESSON #6: How have you used your tongue in the last twenty-four hours?

LESSON #7: It is far better to encourage and affirm rather than criticize and condemn.

LESSON #8: Paul makes no defense, does not get angry, resentful, or bitter in the face of these lies.

LESSON #9: Circumstantial evidence and false suppositions can be devastating.

LESSON #10: Satan often uses suppositions and surmisings to slay the reputation of the servant of the Most High.

LESSON #11: God is able to protect and vindicate His own.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHTEEN – ACTS 22:1-30

NOTES

v. 1 "Men, brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I am now offering to you."
v. 2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they provided him all the more with silence; and he is saying,
v. 3 "I am a man who is a Jew, having been born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but having been brought up in this city, having been educated at the feet of Gamaliel, strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as you all are today.
v. 4 I who persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,
v. 5 as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders are bearing witness for me. From whom also having received letters to the brethren, I was journeying to Damascus for the purpose of bringing even those who were there having been bound to Jerusalem in order that they might be punished.
v. 6 And it came about that as I was proceeding on my journey and nearing Damascus, about noon, suddenly out from heaven there flashed a very bright light all around me.
v. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me: 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'
v. 8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus, the one from Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

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v. 9 And those who were with me beheld the light, to be sure, but did not hear [with comprehension] the voice of the One who was speaking to me.
v.10 And I said: 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Having arisen, be going on your way into Damascus; and there it shall be told you concerning all things which have been appointed for you to do.
v.11 But since I was not seeing for the glory of that light, I was being led by the hand by those who were with me, I came into Damascus.
v.12 And a certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, being well spoken of by all the Jews who were living there,
v.13 having come to me and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very hour I looked up at him.
v.14 And he said: 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice of His mouth.
v.15 For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.
v.16 And now why are you delaying? Having arisen, be baptized and wash away your sins, having called on His name.'
v.17 And it came about that after I returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance,
v.18 and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'
v.19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves are knowing that in one synagogue after another I was imprisoning and beating those who were believing in you.
v.20 And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the cloaks of those who were slaying him.'
v.21 And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"
v.22 And they were listening to him up to this statement, and [then] they raised their voices saying: "Be taking away such a fellow from the earth, for it was not fitting that he should live."
v.23 And when they were crying out and throwing off their garments and throwing dust into the air,
v.24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, having said that he should be examined by scourging in order that he might come to know the reason why they were shouting so against him.
v.25 And when they stretched him out for the thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by: "Is it lawful for you to be scourging a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?"
v.26 And when the centurion heard this, having gone to the commander, brought this report, saying: "What are you about to be doing? For this man is a Roman."
v.27 And the commander having come said to him, "Be telling me, are you a Roman?" And he was saying, "Yes."
v.28 And the commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money." And Paul was saying: "But I have been born a citizen."
v.29 Therefore those who were about to be examining him immediately stood off from him and the commander also became afraid when he came to know that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him in chains.

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v.30 Now on the next day, wishing to know for certain why he was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble, and having brought Paul down, he stood him before them.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 22:1-30 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What caused the respectful silence on the part of the crowd as Paul began to speak, according to verse 2?

3. How does Paul describe himself in verses 3-5?

4. What does Paul share with them in verses 6-11?

5. What does Ananias say to Paul in verses 14-16?

6. What does Paul say about his attitude toward Stephen, according to verse 20?

7. What did the Lord say to Paul, according to verse 21?

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8. How does Paul avoid scourging, according to verse 25?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Paul uses every opportunity to be a witness for Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

LESSON #2: Paul builds a bridge to his hearers so that they might respect and respond to his message.

LESSON #3: Each of us must ask the three questions in the passage: 1) Who are You, Lord? 2) What shall I do, Lord? and 3) Why are You delaying?

LESSON #4: The Lord is unmoved by Paul's logic and reasoning.

LESSON #5: God's great plan is to go to the Gentiles.

LESSON #6: Human dignity was about to be violated in this passage.

LESSON #7: Through all this adversity, Paul now has an opportunity to speak to the Sanhedrin.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER NINETEEN – ACTS 23:1-35

NOTES

v. 1 And Paul, having looked intently at the Sanhedrin, said: "Men, brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."
v. 2 And the high priest Ananias ordered those standing beside him to be striking him on the mouth.
v. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God is about to be striking you, you white-washed wall! And are you sitting, judging me according to the Law, and violating the Law you are ordering me to be struck?"
v. 4 And those standing by said: "Are you reviling God's high priest?"
v. 5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was high priest, for it has been written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"
v. 6 Now, Paul having perceived that one party were Sadducees and the other Pharisees was crying out in the Sanhedrin, "Men, brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am being judged for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"
v. 7 And as he was saying this, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees; and the assembly was divided.
v. 8 For Sadducees are saying that there is no resurrection, nor an angel nor a spirit; but the Pharisees are acknowledging them all.
v. 9 And there arose a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party having stood up were arguing heatedly, saying: "We are finding nothing wrong with this man; and what if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"
v.10 And as a great dissension was developing, the commander having become afraid lest Paul would be torn in pieces by them ordered the soldiers, having gone down, to take him by force from their midst, and to be bringing him into the barracks.
v.11 And on the next night the Lord, having taken His stand at his side, said, "Take courage; for as you witnessed with reference to the things concerning me in Jerusalem, so you must witness in Rome also."
v.12 And when it was day, the Jews, having formed a conspiracy, bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they killed Paul.
v.13 And there were more than forty who formed this plot.
v.14 And they having come to the chief priests and the elders, said: "We bound ourselves under a solemn oath to taste nothing until we killed Paul.
v.15 Now, therefore, you with the Sanhedrin notify the commander so that he might bring him down to you, as though you were about to be judging the things concerning him more accurately. And as for us before he comes near, we are ready to slay him.
v.16 But the son of Paul's sister, having heard of their ambush, having come and having entered the barracks, told Paul.
v.17 And Paul having called one of the centurions to him was saying: "Be taking this young man to the commander, for he is having something to report to him."
v.18 So, having taken him, he brought him to the commander and he is saying: "The prisoner Paul having called me to him asked me to bring this young man to you, since he is having something to say to you."
v.19 Then the commander having taken him by his hand and having stepped aside, he was inquiring of him privately, "What is it that you are having to report to me?"

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v.20 And he said, “The Jews agreed among themselves to ask you to bring Paul down to the Sanhedrin tomorrow, as though about to be inquiring more accurately concerning him.
v.21 As for you, therefore, do not permit yourself to be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in wait for him who bound themselves under a curse not to eat or drink until they slay him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you.”
v.22 Therefore the commander let the young man go, having instructed him: “Tell no one that you notified me of these things.”
v.23 And after he called to him two of the centurions, he said: “Make ready two hundred soldiers by the third hour of the night to proceed to Caesarea, and seventy horsemen and two hundred bowmen.”
v.24 And furnish them beasts of burden, in order that having mounted Paul upon one they might bring him safely through to Felix the governor.
v.25 And he wrote a letter having this form:
v.26 Claudius Lysias, to the most excellent Governor Felix, greetings.
v.27 When this man had been arrested by the Jews and was about to be slain by them, having come upon them with the troops, I rescued, having learned that he was a Roman.
v.28 And desiring to know fully the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin;
v.29 whom I found to be accused concerning questions of their Law, but having no accusation worthy of death or of bonds.
v.30 And when it was pointed out to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you immediately, having given orders also to his accusers to be telling before you what they have against him.
v.31 So then the soldiers, according to the orders given them, having taken Paul, brought him by night to Antipatris.
v.32 And on the next day, having left the horsemen to be going on with him, they returned to the barracks.
v.33 And when these came to Caesarea and having delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.
v.34 And when he read it, he also asked from what province he was; and when he learned that he was from Cilicia,
v.35 he was saying: ‘I will give you a hearing after your accusers arrive also,” having given orders for him to be kept in Herod’s Praetorium.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 23:1-35 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Paul characterize himself before the Sanhedrin in verse 1?

3. How does the high priest respond to this claim, according to verse 2?

4. How does Paul bring about a division in the Sanhedrin, according to verses 6-9?

5. What instructions does Paul receive from the Lord in verse 11?

6. Who keeps Paul from being ambushed and slain, according to verse 16?

7. How does the commander thwart the Jewish conspiracy, according to verse 23?

8. To whom is Paul taken, according to verse 24?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is possible to have a good conscience before God and before men.

LESSON #2: Reaction instead of a response ruined Paul's opportunity for witness.

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LESSON #3: The character of a man is revealed by how he handles a mistake. Does he excuse, defend, or apologize?

LESSON #4: The Lord often comes to us on the field of our defeat with words of affirmation and encouragement.

LESSON #5: God is faithful to His promise of protection for Paul to see that he gets to Rome.

LESSON #6: God uses a nephew and a Roman commander to accomplish His purposes.

LESSON #7: God often gives us a real opportunity to trust Him following the promise.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY – ACTS 24:1-27

NOTES

v. 1 Now after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a certain prosecuting attorney, Tertullus; who brought charges to the governor against Paul.
v. 2 And after he was called, Tertullus began to be accusing him saying: "Since we are obtaining through you much peace and since by your forethought reforms are being carried out for this nation,
v. 3 we are recognizing this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness.
v. 4 But in order that I may not further cut in on your time, I am begging of you to grant to us, by your kindness, a brief hearing.
v. 5 For we found this man a real pest and a fellow who is stirring up strife among all the Jews throughout the inhabited earth, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
v. 6 Who even attempted to profane the temple; whom also we arrested [and we wanted to judge him according to our own Law.
v. 7 But Lysias the commander came along, and with much violence took him out of our hands,
v. 8 ordering his accusers to come before you.] Whom you will be able, having yourself conducted an investigation concerning all these things, to come to know fully the things of which we are accusing him."
v. 9 And the Jews also joined in the attack, affirming that these things were so.
v.10 And when the governor nodded to him to be speaking, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I am cheerfully making my defense,

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v.11 since you are being able to understand that there are not more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship.
v.12 And neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city did they find me disputing with any certain individual nor stirring up a crowd.
v.13 Neither are they able to prove to you the charges concerning which they now are accusing me.
v.14 But this I am admitting to you, that according to the Way which they are calling a sect, thus am I serving the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that has been written in the Prophets;
v.15 having a hope in God, which also these men themselves are sharing, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.
v.16 In view of this, I also am doing my best to be having a conscience which does not cause offense to God and to men at all times.
v.17 Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings;
v.18 in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, not with a crowd nor with an uproar. But there were certain Jews from Asia—
v.19 who ought to have been present before you, and to be bringing accusation, if they were having anything against me.
v.20 Or let these men themselves tell what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the Sanhedrin,
v.21 other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, 'For the resurrection of the dead, I am being judged before you today.'"
v.22 But Felix, having a more exact knowledge about the Way, put them off, having said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case."
v.23 And he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet to be having some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.
v.24 Now after certain days, Felix, having arrived with Drusilla, his own wife who was a Jewess, sent for Paul, and heard him concerning his faith in Christ Jesus.
v.25 And as he was discussing righteousness and self-control and the judgment which is about to be coming, Felix having become frightened, answered, "Be going on your way for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you."
v.26 At the same time, too, hoping that money would be given to him by Paul; therefore he also was sending for him quite often conversing with him.
v.27 But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 24:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Tertullus the lawyer describe Paul, according to verses 5 & 6?

3. What is Paul's attitude as he stands before Felix, according to verse 10?

4. What does Paul say about the charges against him in verses 12 & 13?

5. What common hope does Paul make reference to in verse 15?

6. What does Paul say about his conscience, according to verse 16?

7. How does Felix respond to these accusations in verses 22 & 23?

8. How did Felix respond to the judgment which is coming, according to verse 25?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Lord will never take you anywhere that His grace cannot sustain you.

LESSON #2: "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on account of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11, 12).

LESSON #3: Serving God, believing His Word, and having hope is the content of the abundant life.

LESSON #4: Keeping a clean, clear conscience before God is critical.

LESSON #5: Your testimony should have a past, present, and future tense: In the past tense—you were made righteous by the blood of Christ. In the present—you are exercising self-control. In the future—you are facing the judgment seat of Christ with confidence.

LESSON #6: Do not make the tragic mistake of Felix in never being able to make a decision.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-ONE – ACTS 25:1-27

v. 1 Festus therefore, having arrived in the province, after three days went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.
v. 2 And the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul; and they were urging him,
v. 3 asking a personal favor for themselves against him, that he might have him brought to Jerusalem, (all the while preparing an ambush to kill him on the way.)
v. 4 Now then, Festus answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea and that he himself was about to be leaving shortly.

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v. 5 “Let those, therefore among you,” he is saying, “who are vested with power, having gone down there with me assuming that there is anything amiss in this man, be bringing accusation against him.”
v. 6 And after he spent not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea; on the next day having taken his place on the judgment seat, he ordered Paul to be brought.
v. 7 And after he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him which they could not prove;
v. 8 while Paul was saying in his own defense, “I have committed no offense either against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.”
v. 9 But Festus, desiring to do the Jews a favor, when he answered Paul said: “Are you willing, having gone up to Jerusalem, there to be judged concerning these things in my presence?”
v.10 But Paul said: “I have taken my stand before the judgment seat of Caesar, and here I am standing where I ought to be judged. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also very well know.
v.11 If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I am not refusing to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men are accusing me, no one is able to hand me over to them. I am appealing to Caesar.”
v.12 Then Festus after he conferred with his council, answered: “You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go.”
v.13 Now when several days elapsed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea, greeting Festus.
v.14 And while they were spending many days there, Festus laid the things concerning Paul before the king, saying: “There is a certain man who has been left behind a prisoner by Felix;
v.15 concerning whom when I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation upon him.
v.16 To whom I answered that it is not a custom with Romans to be handing over any man before the one who is being accused meets his accusers face to face, and has an opportunity to make his defense against the charges.
v.17 Therefore after they assembled here, having made no delay, the next day, having sat down on the judgment seat, I ordered the man to be brought.
v.18 Concerning whom after the accusers stood up, they were bringing charges against him not of such crimes as I was expecting;
v.19 but they were having certain questions against him concerning their own religion and concerning a certain Jesus who was dead, whom Paul was saying to be alive.
v.20 And being at a loss with reference to an inquiry concerning these things, I was asking if he would desire to be going to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these things.
v.21 But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the decision of the Emperor, I ordered him to be kept in custody until I should send him up to Caesar.”
v.22 And Agrippa said to Festus, “I also was wishing to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he is saying, “you shall hear him.”

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v.23 Therefore on the next day when Agrippa came and Bernice amid great pageantry, and having entered the auditorium both with commanders and the outstanding men of the city, and Festus having given the order, Paul was brought in.
v.24 And Festus is saying, “King Agrippa, and all those men who are present with us, you are seeing this man concerning whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both in Jerusalem and here, loudly declaring that he ought no longer to be living.
v.25 But when I found that he had done nothing worthy of death; and since he himself appealed to the Emperor, decided to be sending him.
v.26 Concerning whom I am having nothing definite to write to my lord. Because of this I brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write.
v.27 For it is seeming absurd to me in sending a prisoner, not to indicate also the charges against him.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 25:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What did the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews try to do when Festus arrived?

3. How does Paul answer the accusations of the Jews in verse 8?

4. How does Paul respond to the question of Festus in verses 10 & 11?

5. What decision does Festus make in verse 12?

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6. How does Agrippa respond to the account of Festus in verse 22?

7. Describe the arrival of Agrippa and Bernice, according to verse 23.

8. Summarize Festus's opening remarks.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How long and lonely seems the road of His will at times.

LESSON #2: The Lord's timing is always perfect, even if it does seem slow from our perspective.

LESSON #3: God is providing an opportunity for Felix, Festus, and Agrippa each to hear the gospel message.

LESSON #4: Paul takes a stand because he is innocent of all the charges.

LESSON #5: God's unseen hand is leading Paul to Rome.

LESSON #6: Paul is having a great opportunity and great exposure for the Gospel.

LESSON #7: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

LESSON #8: When things are on hold in your life, learn to trust, delight, commit, be still and wait patiently.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-TWO – ACTS 26:1-32

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v. 1 Now Agrippa was saying to Paul, "You are permitted to be speaking for yourself." Then Paul, having stretched out his hand, was making his defense.
v. 2 "In regard to all the things of which I am being accused by the Jews, I have considered myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to be making my defense before you today;
v. 3 because you are especially expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I am begging you to listen to me patiently.
v. 4 So then, all Jews have known my manner of life from youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation in Jerusalem;
v. 5 since they are knowing about me for a long time previously, if they would be willing to be bearing testimony, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.
v. 6 And now I am standing here being judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;
v. 7 [the promise] to which our twelve tribes are hoping to attain, earnestly night and day rendering sacred service to God. Concerning this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.
v. 8 Why is it being judged by you all as incredible if God is raising the dead?
v. 9 So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
v.10 Which also I did in Jerusalem; and many of the saints I locked up in prisons, having received the authority from the chief priests, when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.
v.11 And often in all the synagogues while punishing them, I was trying to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I was pursuing them even to foreign cities.
v.12 Being engaged in these things, while I was proceeding to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests,
v.13 at midday, O King, I saw along the road a light from heaven above the brilliance of the sun, shining all around me and those who were travelling with me.
v.14 And when we fell to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to be kicking against the goads.'
v.15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said: 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.
v.16 But arise and stand upon your feet; for this purpose I appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness both to the things you saw and to the things in which I will appear to you;

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v.17 delivering you from the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you;
v.18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'
v.19 Consequently, King Agrippa, I did not become disobedient to the heavenly vision,
v.20 but I was declaring both to those in Damascus first and in Jerusalem and in all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles that they should be repenting and turning to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
v.21 On account of these things the Jews, having seized me in the temple, were attempting to put me to death.
v.22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, saying nothing except the things which the Prophets and Moses said are going to be taking place;
v.23 whether the Christ is subject to suffering, whether He being the first to arise from the dead is about to be proclaiming light to the people and to the Gentiles."
v.24 And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus in a loud voice is saying: "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your vast learning is turning you mad."
v.25 But Paul is saying: "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am declaring boldly words of truth and soundness of mind.
v.26 For the king is knowing about these things, before whom I also am speaking freely, for I am persuaded that none of these things is hidden from him; for this has not been done in a corner.
v.27 King Agrippa, are you believing the Prophets? I am knowing that you are believing."
v.28 And Agrippa is saying to Paul: "In a short time you are persuading me in order to make me a Christian."
v.29 And Paul is saying, "I am praying to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who are hearing me today, might become such as I am, except for these chains."
v.30 And the king arose and the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting with them,
v.31 and when they withdrew, they were talking to one another, saying: "This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment."
v.32 And Agrippa was saying to Festus: "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 26:1-32 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. How does Paul open his defense, according to verses 2 & 3?

3. Why is Paul being judged, according to verse 6?

4. What key question is asked in verse 8?

5. What does it mean: “It is hard for you to be kicking against the goads” in verse 14?

6 How does Paul describe his ministry in verse 18?

7. How does Festus respond to his message, according to verse 24?

8. How does Agrippa respond, according to verse 28?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Paul is prepared for this great opportunity that presents itself to him.

LESSON #2: Paul uses affirmation and appreciation in his approach to Agrippa.

LESSON #3: The focus of Paul's message is upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

LESSON #4: Paul was forcing, furious, and fighting before he became a Christian.

LESSON #5: Do you find yourself kicking against the goads of conviction?

LESSON #6: The message preached is to turn men from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God.

LESSON #7: Emotional outbursts sometimes accompany conviction of sin.

LESSON #8: What are the chains that are binding you from coming to Christ, or from walking in fellowship with Him?

LESSON #9: You can be set free if you will just turn to Jesus.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-THREE – ACTS 27:1-44

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v. 1 Now when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they were delivering Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Augustan cohort.
v. 2 And having gone on board a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to be sailing to places along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea, there being with us Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.
v. 3 And on the next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius, having treated Paul, kindly allowed him to go to his friends to receive care.
v. 4 And from there having put out to sea, we sailed under the sheltered protection of Cyprus because the winds were contrary.
v. 5 And when we sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came down to Myra in Lycia.
v. 6 And there the centurion, having found a ship of Alexandria sailing to Italy, he put us on board it.

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v. 7 And when sailing slowly for a considerable number of days and with difficulty having arrived off Cnidus, since the wind was not permitting us to go farther, we sailed under the sheltered protection of Crete, off Salmone;
v. 8 and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.
v. 9 Now when a considerable time elapsed and the voyage already being dangerous, and also because the Fast already was past, Paul was admonishing them,
v.10 saying to them, “Men, I am perceiving that the voyage ia destined to be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”
v.11 But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the owner of the ship, than by the things which were being spoken by Paul.
v.12 And the harbor being unfit as a place in which to spend the winter, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they might be able to reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, looking northeast and southeast, and spend the winter there.
v.13 And a south wind having gently blown, thinking that they had gained their purpose, having hoisted their anchor, they were sailing along Crete close in shore.
v.14 But before very long there rushed down from it a hurricane wind called Euraquilo;
v.15 and when the ship was caught in it and not able to face the wind, having given up to it, we were being borne along.
v.16 And running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were with difficulty able to get possession of the little boat.
v.17 Which after they hoisted it up, they were using supports undergirding the ship; fearing that they might run aground on the shallows of Syrtis, having taken in some of the sails, we were in this manner being borne along.
v.18 The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they were doing a throwing out.
v.19 And on the third day they threw out with their own hands the furnishings of the ship.
v.20 Now when neither sun nor stars were shining for many days, and no small storm was pressing down upon us, all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.
v.21 And when they had been long without food, then Paul having taken his stand in their midst said, “Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss.
v.22 And yet now I am urging you to be keeping up your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.
v.23 For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I am rendering sacred service stood before me,
v.24 saying: ‘Stop fearing, Paul; it is necessary for you to stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’
v.25 Therefore, be keeping up your courage, men, for I am believing God, that it shall be exactly as I have been told.
v.26 But we must run aground on a certain island.”

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v.27 Now when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors were surmising that some land was drawing near to them.
v.28 And when they took soundings, they found it to be twenty fathoms; and a little farther on having again taken a sounding they found it to be fifteen fathoms.
v.29 And fearing that we might run aground somewhere against rocky places, having thrown four anchors from the stern, they were praying for it to become day.
v.30 Now as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and having let down the ship's boat into the sea, under pretense of being about to be laying anchors from the bow,
v.31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves are not able to be saved."
v.32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat, and let it fall away.
v.33 Now, until that time at which it should become day, Paul was encouraging them all to take food, saying: "Today is the fourteenth day in which you are constantly watching, going without eating, having taken nothing.
v.34 Therefore I am encouraging you to take food, for this is for your preservation; for not a hair from the head of any of you shall perish."
v.35 And having said these things and having taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all; and having broken it, he began to be eating.
v.36 And all of them became cheerful, and they themselves took food.
v.37 And all of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six souls.
v.38 And having eaten food to their entire satisfaction, they were making light the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.
v.39 Now when day came, they were not recognizing the land; but they were observing a certain bay having a beach, and they were deliberating with one another whether they would be able to drive the ship into it.
v.40 And having cast off the anchors, they were leaving them in the sea. While at the same time, having loosened the ropes of the rudders and having hoisted the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach.
v.41 But when they struck a place where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the bow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves.
v.42 Now the counsel of the soldiers was to kill the prisoners, lest anyone having swam out should escape;
v.43 but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and ordered those who were able to swim, having thrown themselves overboard, to get first to the land,
v.44 and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And thus it happened that they all were brought safely through to the land.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 27:1-44 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. When they are sailing toward Rome, how does Paul admonish them in verse 10?

3. How do the centurion and the pilot of the ship respond to Paul's warning, according to verse 11?

4. What happened to them on their voyage, according to verse 14?

5. Describe what was happening in verses 17-20.

6. What is Paul's advice in verses 22-25?

7. What is Paul's warning in verse 31?

8. Describe what happened to all the passengers of the boat, according to verse 44.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Lord is fulfilling His purpose in taking Paul to Rome.

LESSON #2: Paul is cared for by his friends.

LESSON #3: Many times the majority have been wrong in the Bible.

LESSON #4: The Lord has a message for Paul in the midst of the storm.

LESSON #5: The Lord's words of encouragement and affirmation are always right on schedule.

LESSON #6: Paul is of good courage in the midst of the storm because he is believing God.

LESSON #7: He who believes God will never be disappointed.

LESSON #8: God has promised to bring us safely through to glory. We have been sealed by the Spirit of God until the day of redemption.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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Study Number Twenty-Four – Acts 28:1-31

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v. 1 And having been brought safely through, then we recognized that the island was called Melita.
v. 2 And the barbarians (natives) were showing us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, having kindled a fire, they received us all.
v. 3 Now when Paul gathered together a capacity load of dry sticks and having put them on the fire, a viper having come out from the heat fastened on his hand.

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v. 4 And when the barbarians (natives) saw the creature hanging from his hand, they were saying to one another, “Certainly this man is a murderer, whom having been brought safely out of the sea, justice did not permit to continue living.”
v. 5 Now, therefore, having shaken off the creature into the fire, he suffered no harm.
v. 6 But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly to be falling down dead. But while they were expecting this for a long time and were seeing nothing unusual happening to him, having changed their minds, they were saying that he was a god.
v. 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island named Publius, who having welcomed us entertained us courteously three days.
v. 8 And it came about that the father of Publius was lying in bed in the grip of an intermittent fever and dysentery, to whom Paul having come and having prayed, having laid his hands on him, he healed him.
v. 9 Now after this happened, the rest of those in the island also having infirmities were coming and were being healed.
v.10 Who also honored us with many honors; and when we were setting sail, they put on board the things pertaining to the needs.
v.11 Now after three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had passed the winter in the island, which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.
v.12 And after we put in at Syracuse, we remained there three days.
v.13 And from there having sailed around, we arrived at Rhegium, and after one day a south wind having commenced blowing, we came on the second day to Puteoli,
v.14 where having found brethren, we were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome.
v.15 And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; whom when Paul saw, having thanked God, he took courage.
v.16 And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.
v.17 And it happened that after three days he called together those who are the leading men among the Jews, and when they came together, he was saying to them: “Men, brethren, though I having done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.
v.18 Who were such that after having examined me, were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.
v.19 But when the Jews were speaking against it, I was forced to appeal to Caesar; not that I was having anything of which to accuse my nation.
v.20 For this reason therefore, I invited you to see me and to speak with me, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.”
v.21 And they said to him: “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor has any one of the brethren having come, reported or spoken anything bad concerning you.
v.22 But we are desiring to hear from you what you are thinking; for indeed concerning this sect, we are knowing that it is being spoken against everywhere.”

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v.23 And when they scheduled a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; to whom he was explaining, solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, trying to persuade them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from early in the morning until evening.
v.24 And some indeed were being persuaded by the things being spoken, but others were not believing.
v.25 And when they were not agreeing with one another, they were leaving after Paul spoke one parting word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,
v.26 saying, 'Go to this people and say, "By means of your sense of hearing you will hear and will not understand; and while seeing, you will see and will not perceive.
v.27 For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they heard with difficulty, and their eyes they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn again and I should heal them."'
v.28 Let it be known to you, therefore, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they themselves will also hear it."
v.29 [And when he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]
v.30 And he stayed two whole years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all those who were coming to him,
v.31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 28:1-31 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How were they treated by the natives of the island of Melita?

3. What happened to Paul, according to verse 3?

4. What did Paul do for the father of Publius, according to verse 8?

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5. Describe the initial reception in Rome, according to verse 15.

6. What did Paul do right away after he got to Rome ,according to verse 17?

7. What kind of response did Paul get to his invitation, according to verse 23?

8. What prophet does Paul refer to when he makes his final statement, according to verse 25?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God is going to bring us safely through unto His eternal kingdom.

LESSON #2: The unselfish servant will always be revealed in a time of stress.

LESSON #3: God tests Paul with regard to His will by means of: the saints, the ship, the swim, and the snake.

LESSON #4: God is faithful to protect His own in fulfillment of His promises. Saints are immortal until their work on earth is done.

LESSON #5: The snake and the healing are signs of Paul's apostleship.

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LESSON #6: The apostle immediately begins a ministry in Rome three days after he arrives.

LESSON #7: When you preach the Gospel, there will be some who respond and some who will not.

LESSON #8: The salvation of God is to go to the whole world.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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