ACTS

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The book of Acts is divinely inspired and pictures for men the work of the apostles and the early church as the New Testament church.
- 2. It is a "pattern book."
- 3. It shows men what to do, and what teaching God wants man to hear.
- 4. It is fundamental to understanding the establishment and spread of New Testament Christianity.
- 5. It is the foundation of apostolic action and teaching.
- 6. The book of Acts deals with the basic issues facing the church today.

BOOK OF FIRSTS

A. The hidden mystery of the ages is fully revealed in the book of Acts.

- B. FIRSTS:
 - 1. For the first time in history of men, the gospel was preached in all its fullness.
 - 2. For the First time, man hears the terms of admission into the kingdom of God.
 - 3. As a result, three thousand are baptized and become <u>the first citizens</u> in the kingdom of God.
 - 4. Also records the first great persecution of the church.
 - 5. The first example of mission activity.

WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT

A. Book of Acts begins with the person and works of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Fulfillment of prophecy of Joel (Acts 2).
- 2. Baptism of Holy Spirit as promised by God (Acts 2).
- 3. Those who received this "promise" received "power".
- B. WAS BOTH "SEEN" AND "HEARD".
 - 1. Acts 2:33
 - 2. Acts 2;1-4.
- C. TODAY MANY HAVE PERVERTED GOD'S WORD CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT.
 - 1. Either all the spiritual gifts are available or none are.
 - 2. The exponents of "tongues" today reject the facts that 'tongues" were languages" and not "ecstatic utterances".

ACTS

Divinity Of The Church

- A. The Lord promised to build His church (Matt. 16;18). The book of Acts shows the fulfillment of this promise.
 - 1. First Gospel sermon preached (Acts 2).
 - 2. Saved added to the church. (Acts 2)
- B. CHURCH WAS DIVINE IN ITS ORGANIZATION.
 - 1. The apostles laid the foundation of Christ as the chief corner-stone.
 - 2. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ was the heart of their preaching. (Acts 3;11-28:31).
- C. THE CHURCH WAS DIVINE IN ITS WORSHIP.
 - 1. Spirit filled apostles guided the worship of the church.
 - 2. Acts 2:42.

Destroys Denominationalism

A. Early Christians were <u>Unified</u>, not <u>Divided</u>. (Acts 4:32).

- 1. Acts 4:32....one Heart...one soul.
- 2. Unity of doctrine.
- B. DEMANDED BAPTISM FOR REMISSION OF SINS. (Acts 2:38).
 - 1. First Sermon (Acts 2).
 - 2. In name of Christ (Acts 10:48).
 - 3. Whenever Christ was preached..(Acts 2, 8:5; 8:12; 8:35,38)
- C. RECOGNIZED THE KINGDOM AS established on Day of Pentecost.
 - 1. Old Testament prophecies fulfilled (Joel 2; Daniel 2).
 - 2. Jesus as King (2:22-36).
- D. Organization or Pattern of Worship..

World-Wide Evangelism

- A. Propagation is the Law of Life. Each generation must reproduce itself or cease to exist.
 - 1. "Taught publicly and from house to house."
 - 2. Where ever they went they fought the battle of the Lord.
 - 3. "They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word." (Acts 8;4).
- B. MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF PAUL.
- 1. Our example. 2. Gospel preached to "all the world" (Col. 1:6).

ACTScompared to	Arithmetic book.
Rules given	Rules given
Examples of application	Examples of application
Right Answers	Right Answers