

Why Study the Book of Acts?

1. Bridge to Church History

IF NO Book of Acts > John 21 to Romans 1 > 1ST word 'PAUL' Who? What?

Church in ROME? How did FAITH Leap Across Mediterranean Sea??

Letters to *Timothy, Titus, Philemon* > How did they GET IN the STORY?

James – Half Brother of Jesus – in Gospels JAMES is NOT Even BELIEVER!

Jude – Also Half Brother of Jesus – ALSO NOT BELIEVER!!

2 Letters from *PETER*?? – Guy who DENIED Jesus THREE TIMES!!

2. Background for Epistles

Meet PAUL Prolific Writer, 13 NT Letters: Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi...

Corinthians CONTENTION about Holy Spirit and His GIFTS

Galatians CONFUSION about Law of Moses and Faith of Jesus

Thessalonians CONCERN about whether Jesus Came Again and Left Behind?

Philippians COMMENDED for the Generous, Sacrificial GIVING KEY to Understand ISSUES > ACTS Narratives of Paul's Missionary Journeys

3. Not Biography

Key People Peter and Paul > Much we DO NOT Learn: Physical Appearance, Parents, Politics, Hobbies, Death >> **Focus – Sermons & Service for Jesus**

Many Individuals > CONNECTING Theme > FOLLOWERS of Jesus
Individuals have SUPPORTING ROLE > MAIN ACTOR in Acts is JESUS

4. Not Blueprint

Tendency to ROMANTICIZE the Early Church > REAL CHURCH!
Acts = Also reveals Rivalries, Hypocrisies, Immorality, and Heresies

Records BIRTH of Church > But is NOT EXACT BLUEPRINT for Church

Follow EXAMPLE of PRINCIPLES but not ALL PARTICULARS
Draw Lots for Leaders?? Flames for Headdress?? Live in Communes??

5. Blessing

Revelation – Only Bible Book with explicit Promised Blessing to Reader

Every Book of WORD of GOD > Offers MUCH for the PEOPLE of God

The book of Acts...is a kind of vast treasure. John Calvin

It is the most lyrical of books...Live in that book, I exhort you: it is a tonic, the greatest tonic I know of in the realm of the Spirit. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

There is nothing today's church needs so much as to rediscover the doctrine, spirit, and commitments of the early Christian community.

James Boice

ALL 3 Men NOW ENJOY Heavenly Community > Great Company
Witnesses