Sermon Notes - January 3, 2021

2020 is over - New Beginnings for 2021

Overview of the book of Acts

A. Introduction

- The Book of Acts is the only book that chronicles the history of the birth, founding and spread of the Church from Jerusalem to Rome after Jesus’s ascension.

- It also chronicles the transition of the Church from being exclusively a Jewish Institution into becoming a Gentile and international institution and spreading of the gospel of salvation that is for all people

B. In Chapters 1 – 6A

- There contain events that surround Jerusalem and the infancy of the church.

- It also walks through the events of Pentecost and bold sermons by Peter to all the Jews where they saw 3,000 new believers surrendered their lives to follow Jesus.

C. In Chapters 6b – 9a

- There is a shift in focus to do evangelism in other cities.

- It continues in Jerusalem, then to the Samaritan Proselytes.

- Philip & Stephen proclaimed Christ & Stephen is falsely accused & stoned to death as he preaches to the religious leaders.

- At Stephens’s death, there was a young persecutor, Saul, who was opposing Christians and imprisoning them until he has a life changing experience on the road to Damascus and surrenders his life to the true Jesus.

- It’s Amazing how God can draw people to Himself.

D. In Chapters 9 – 12

- Peter gets a revelation from God that the gospel was to be shared among the Gentiles.

- That must have been quite a revelation. I wonder if we would be open to that?

- Then, Cornelius, a Roman commander, and some of his men become followers of Christ.

- Saul, the persecutor, has become a passionate follower of Christ and begins preaching the gospel.

- This is where the term Christians is first used in Antioch. Things are really happening now!

- Imagine Saul, who was a persecutor, now is gone to the other side and is preaching the gospel!!

- God is amazing when He pursues you and wants you to be part of his army!

E. In Chapters 12 – 16

- The gospel is now being shared geographically to the Gentiles outside of Jerusalem.

- Saul changes his Hebrew name to Paul, a Greek name, meaning to reach Gentiles.

- Paul and Barnabas then begin the first, then second missionary journeys to the Gentile world with both success and opposition.

- The book of Acts abruptly ends with Paul being imprisoned in Rome

How do we apply the Book of Acts to our lives? First as individuals and then as a church?

5 Words

1. Believe
2. Receive
3. Belong
4. Dwell
5. Empowered

Summary

- So…. will you trust God & His promises? Do we believe what His Word says? And will you live it out?

- What opportunities for sharing the gospel do we take advantage of our sphere of influence?

As you study the book of Acts in the coming weeks & months –

- Will you believe & live out the work of the Cross & His Resurrection…Will you allow the leading of the Holy Spirit and to look for where we can share about the hope that we have in Jesus?

- Friend of mine says we need to LEARN IT, LIVE IT and PASS IT ON!

- Examples – What is God doing in your life?

- The question I asked earlier in the message was…

So, does ACC stop & put ministry on hold & wait till you hire the next SR Pastor?

The answer is no!! God has called us to Go and make disciples – How will we play a role in that call?

Jer 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future.

Psalm 51:10 – Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!