Witnesses to Christ

A Work of God
Lesson 5
Acts 5:12-6:15

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 31, 2016
The Acts of the Apostles

- A transition
  - The Nation Israel/Law of Moses
  - The Holy Spirit/Church/Gospel

- Validation of Apostolic Ministry
  - Signs and wonders
  - Apostles of Christ – 12 disciples + Paul
  - Historical background for New Testament revelation
The Acts of the Apostles

- The Law of Moses
- The life of the believing community – the Church
- Outline
  - In Jerusalem (1-7) – 2 years
  - In Judea and Samaria (8-12) – 13 years
  - To the end of the earth (13-28) – 14 years
The Message of Acts

- Jesus rejected and killed in Jerusalem
- God raised Him from the dead
- Jesus is the Son of God – the Christ
- Forgiveness of sins through Him
- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- According to the Scriptures
A Work of God (Acts 5:12 – 6:15)

- Commission (1) – wait for the Holy Spirit, then go!
- Pentecost (2) – the coming of the Holy Spirit
- Opposition (3-4) – the offense of Jesus and resurrection
- Holiness (5:1-11) – the fear of God
- A Work of God (5:12-6:15) – Spiritual warfare intensifies
A Work of God (Acts 5:12 – 6:15)

- The believing community (5:12-16)
- The ministry – witnessing (5:17-32)
- The opposition (5:33-40)
- The ministry – ministering (6:1-7)
- The minister – Stephen (6:8-15)
The Believing Community (5:12-16)

- Great fear in the Church and over all who heard (5:11)
- Many signs and wonders by the apostles
- Gathering with one accord
- None dare associate with them
- Held in high esteem
- More believers “constantly added”
- Seeking healing – the shadow of Peter
The Ministry – Witnessing (5:17-32)

- Apostles arrested by the high priest and Sadducees
  - Filled with jealousy (NASB)
  - The offense of the Gospel
- Apostles released by an angel of the Lord
- Charge to speak “the whole message of this life.”
- A discovery made without faith
  - “greatly perplexed”
  - “afraid of the people”
- The accusation: “... this man’s blood upon us.”
The Ministry – Witnessing (5:17-32)

- “We must obey God rather than men.”
- The resurrection of Jesus
- The sin of the Jews – execution of Jesus
- The result of their sin
  - Exaltation of Jesus as Prince and Savior
  - Repentance and forgiveness of sins to the Jews (Israel)
- The gracious witness of the apostles by the Holy Spirit
The Opposition (5:33-40)

- Murderous intent
- Gamaliel – a teacher of the Law
- “Wise counsel” based upon recent history
  - Theudas – “claiming to be somebody” . . . came to nothing
  - Judas of Galilee – “drew some people after him . . . perished
- Leave them alone!
- Good advice?
- The wisdom of man – foolishness with God
  - A false teacher of the Law
  - An unbeliever in the One True God
  - A thoroughly modern man – cannot know truth
- The Work of God is found in the Word of God
The Ministry – Ministering (6:1-7)

› A controversy in the church
  • The practice of providing for the needy (2:42-47; 4:32-37)
  • Hellenist Jews v. native Jews – care for widows

› The solution – 7 men to oversee this work
  • Good reputation
  • Full of the Spirit and wisdom
  • 7 Hellenist-Jews
  • Selected by the people and ordained by the apostles

› Deacons?
  • Philip and Stephen – preached
  • A pattern for ministry (deacons)
    – Nothing to hinder preaching and praying
    – Ministry led by Godly leaders
The Minister – Stephen (6:8-15)

- Increased disciples, including priests
- Stephen
  - Full of grace and power – 4:33 – pattern of Apostles
  - Great wonders and signs among the people
- Opposition from synagogue
  - Unable to refute his wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke
  - False accusations
A Work of God

- The authority of Scripture
- The power of the Holy Spirit
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene
- Opposition without truth
- How to do the Work of God
  - Proclaim the Truth as it is in Jesus Christ, Son of God
  - The whole message of this life