

Week 13: The Acts and the Early Church

1. Introduction: The Significance of Acts

- 1) Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, covering Jesus' ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, and the spread of the gospel.
- 2) It serves as a bridge between the Gospels and Church History, revealing the prototype of the Christian Church.

2. Overview of the Structure of Acts

- 1) Ch. 1–7: Ministry in Jerusalem – Focus on Peter
- 2) Ch. 8–12: Ministry in Judea and Samaria – Persecution and gospel expansion
- 3) Ch. 13–28: Paul's missionary journeys – Gospel reaches Rome

3. Key Themes

1) The Work of the Holy Spirit

- (1) Pentecost (Acts 2): tongues, miracles, boldness
- (2) The Spirit empowers the church and testifies to the gospel

2) Spread of the Gospel

- (1) Fulfillment of Acts 1:8 – “to the ends of the earth”
- (2) Progression from Jews → Samaritans → Gentiles

3) Life of the Early Church

- (1) Devoted to apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42)
- (2) Shared community, Spirit-led, thriving amid persecution

4) Ministry of Paul

- (1) Three missionary journeys and final journey to Rome
- (2) Church planting, gospel exposition, foundation of Pauline theology

5) Identity and Mission of the Church

- (1) The body of Christ, pillar of truth, light and salt of the world
- (2) A community that clings to truth and proclaims the gospel even in suffering