## Preparing to Study the book of Acts?

by Wayne Goff

The next quarter of 2022 will be devoted to studying the book of Acts, written by the Gentile physician Luke as a follow-up to his Gospel record. Workbooks will be printed as a basic guide with a few questions, but if you are serious about studying this **very important** foundational book, then let me suggest a resource or two that will help you.

First, obtain a copy of J.W. *McGarvey's New Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*. He wrote this commentary before he reached the age of 30, and then later improved it with revision, but it is an excellent resource. You can find it on Amazon in paperback form for \$14.99. If you have Bible software, it is often one of the commentaries included with the basic package. You can read it for <u>free online</u> at StudyLight.org, biblestudyguide.org, and possibly other places. So you really have no excuse for not reading his commentary and being introduced to important truths found in Acts.

Second, consider the big picture of the book of Acts. After the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the disciples of Jesus were left alone in Jerusalem with the question: "Now what?" Acts tells you what happened to first century believers and this shows us how we can imitate the same today. Acts contains what we often call The First Gospel Sermon (Acts 2), Cases of Conversion, the First Church (Acts 2), "Issues" among the early believers regarding the Resurrection, Persecution, Lying to God, Second Conversions, Circumcision, and some information regarding the apostolic work of Peter and Paul. There is no more important work in the New Testament for understanding God's plan for Christians today than the book of Acts! It is pivotal, indispensable, essential, and timeless! Get your copy today ~ it's found right between the books of John and Romans ~ in your own Bible! (Sorry, I got a little carried away with my corny humor. AWG) Do yourself a favor and read through the first twelve chapters before you do anything else!

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