

Ashland Church of Christ 2007
Spreading the Good News

“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...” (MATTHEW 28:10)

Who Do I Need to Evangelize? — Audience
The Spreading Flame

Text: Acts

Key Text Acts 5:14, “*And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.*”

Introduction:

- 1) A brief overview of the book of Acts will leave on with the unmistakable conclusion that the church of the first century grew by leaps and bounds.
- 2) Today, many are looking to the wrong standards for church growth.
- 3) The book of Acts chronicles about 30 years of the church of the first century.
- 4) Introduction to the book (1):
 - a) To commands:
 - i) Do not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise (1:4).
 - ii) Receive power and be Jesus’ witnesses (1:8).
 - b) Jesus ascends to Heaven (1:9-11).
 - c) Matthias is chosen to replace Judas (1:12-26).
- 5) Interestingly, the book of Acts outline itself in Acts 1:8.
 - I. You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem (2-7).
 - A. The first gospel sermon (2).

- B. Peter's second sermon (3).
 - C. The first time of the persecution of the saints (4).
 - D. The first discipline of apostate members (5).
 - E. The first deacons in the church (6-7).
- II. You shall be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria (8-12).
- A. Many Samaritans converted (8:1-25).
 - B. An Ethiopian's conversion (8:26-40).
 - C. Saul's conversion (9).
 - D. Cornelius' conversion (10-11).
 - E. Herod's treachery and punishment (12).
- III. You shall be my witnesses to the uttermost part of the earth (13-28).
- A. Paul's first mission journey (13-14).
 - B. The Jerusalem conference (15:1-35).
 - C. Paul's second mission journey (15:36-18:22).
 - D. Paul's third mission journey (18:23-21:17).
 - E. Paul's arrest and journey to Rome (21:18-28:31).

Conclusion:

1. Spreading the gospel of Christ requires teaching people who are lost.
2. Spreading the gospel of Christ is something that must be done regardless of the consequences: Jail, beatings, persecution, and so on.
3. Spreading the gospel of Christ requires genuine perseverance.
4. Spreading the gospel of Christ should be a habit that is formed in our lives and never is relinquished.
5. Spreading the gospel of Christ requires spreading the gospel of Christ, not some other pointless message.