

NT5100 English Bible: The Book of Acts (3 hrs)

Trinity International University
South Chicago Regional Center
Fall Semester 2012

Sept 7-8; Oct 5-6; Nov 2-3
Fri 6:30-10:00 pm | Sat 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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Course Description

Demonstration of inductive Bible study method and treatment of the special teaching of a particular book or books of the New Testament based on the English text. May be repeated for credit as the book studied changes. Not for credit in the MA/NT or MA/OT programs.

Course Objectives

Throughout this course the student will:

1. cultivate his/her love for Jesus and passion for his Word;
2. develop tools for interpreting Scripture in its context;
3. learn how to read a biblical book – particularly the Book of Acts – with an eye toward the author’s intention;
4. increase his/her knowledge of the purpose, background, structure, contents, and themes of the Book of Acts;
5. develop a greater appreciation for and knowledge of the vast literature that has been written on the Book of Acts;
6. discover how the Book of Acts can be used to critique the practices of the contemporary Western church; and
7. grow in his/her ability to communicate the truths of Scripture.

Course Readings

Students are expected to read through the Book of Acts at least once and to read at least 750 pages of the textbooks listed below. You do not need to read all of these books; choose which would be most helpful to you. If you prefer you can do all your reading from the required text (Peterson’s commentary), or you can divide your reading across several texts that would be helpful to you. If you read through the Book of Acts twice during the semester, you only need to read 700 pages from the textbooks. It is **highly recommended** that you read through Acts once and through 100 pages of text **before the first day of class** (Liefeld’s book is a great place to start; so is Peterson’s introduction). It is **required** that you read at least 400 pages **by October 5**. A reading report is attached to the end of this syllabus. It will be due on November 2.

Textbooks

Our required text is **David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Pillar New Testament Commentary; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)**. This is perhaps the best mid-level commentary on Acts and is a resource you will want to have in your personal library.

If you only want to focus on one text you can concentrate all your reading on Peterson's commentary. If you don't want to read 750 pages of biblical commentary you can supplement with one or more of these texts:

1. **Walter L. Liefeld, *Interpreting the Book of Acts* (Guides to New Testament Exegesis; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)**. This book walks you through how to best approach the Book of Acts, helping you discover the purpose, structure, theology, and themes of Acts. 115 pages.
2. **F. Scott Spencer, *Journeying through Acts: A Literary-Cultural Reading* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2004)**. This is another commentary, but it is shorter and views Acts very differently from Peterson, so that you would not find too much overlap and would benefit from reading the two side-by side. 240 pages.
3. **Alan J. Thompson, *The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus: Luke's Account of God's Unfolding Plan* (New Studies in Biblical Theology; Downers Grove; InterVarsity, 2011)**. This book focuses on the theological interests of Luke that are found in the Book of Acts. 180 pages.
4. **Mark Allan Powell, *What Are They Saying about Acts?* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1991)**. This is an excellent introduction to Biblical scholarship on Acts. It is simple and readable and gives you an overview of the scholarly debates surrounding Acts without attempting to take sides in the debates. 110 pages.
5. **I. Howard Marshall and David Peterson, *Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)**. This is a collection of 25 scholarly essays on different aspects of the theology of Acts. It would be easy to choose individual essays that you want to read (20-25 pages each) without having to read through the entire book. 545 pages.
6. **Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours, A Study of the Church in the Four Provinces* (ReadAClassic.com, 2012)**. This book was originally written in 1912 as a critique of Western missionary models. It analyzes Acts for lessons that can be taken to the modern (1912 or 2012!) mission field. 125 pages.
7. **Michael W. Foss, *From Members to Disciples: Leadership Lessons from the Book of Acts* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007)**. This book is written by a pastor who has learned many lessons about ministry through his study of Acts and his own experience in ministry. 100 pages.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. *Readings and Participation* (20%) – The last page of the syllabus contains a reading log for you to fill out and turn in on November 2. You must have read at least 450 pages by October 5 and 750 pages by November 2 to receive full credit. You will also be asked to contribute to class discussions based on your reading. How well you integrate your

reading with the class discussions will determine the grade you receive for readings and participation.

2. *Discussion Leading* (20%) – Choose one of the passages or topics listed on the course schedule below and prepare to lead a 20-minute discussion on the passage/topic. This does not need to be lecture-based; if you prefer to lead an inductive study of the passage or topic you are welcome to do so. A signup sheet with the passages and topics will be given the first day of class. If you would like to sign up to lead a discussion the first weekend, email the professor at least one week in advance.
3. *Quizzes* (20%) – There will be a quiz on October 5 and on November 2. More details will be given on the first weekend of classes.
4. *Acts Teaching Outline* (20%) – Develop an outline for how you would teach through the Book of Acts in your own ministry, whether it be through weekly sermons or Sunday school classes or small group Bible studies or regular blog posts. Choose how many teachings you want to devote to the Book of Acts (you do not need to cover the entire Book of Acts) and how you would divide up the book for these teachings. Be sure to comment on the main point that will be brought out in each teaching.
5. *Final Paper* (20%) – Write a 5- to 7-page research paper on any topic related to the study of Acts. Your topic must be approved by the professor beforehand. Suggested topics include “Missionary Methods in Acts,” “The Importance of Prayer According to Acts,” “The Relationship between Luke’s Gospel and Acts,” “Lessons on Preaching from the Sermons in Acts,” “Luke’s View of Judaism and the Law,” etc.

Grading Scale

93-100% = A	90-92.9% = A-	
87-89.9% = B+	83-86.9% = B	80-82.9% = B-
77-79.9% = C+	73-76.9% = C	70-72.9% = C-
67-69.9% = D+	63-66.9% = D	60-62.9% = D-
59.9% and below = F		

Use of Technology in Class

All students are expected to turn off their phones and disable the internet on their laptops while in class. Sending or receiving phone calls, text messages, or emails or browsing the internet during class will negatively affect your class participation grade, as will sleeping in class or otherwise being distracted from lecture. Repeated offenses may result in failure of the course.

Academic Integrity Policy

The world needs men and women of integrity, and the choices you make now will effect how you act in the future. Students are expected to uphold the level of integrity that is described in the student handbook and is expected of disciples of Christ. Students caught **copying** the work of others or letting others copy their work, **lying** about how much they read for the class, etc., will receive reduced grades and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Course Schedule

	Acts Passages	Topics Discussed	Recommended Reading
Weekend 1: September 7-8	1:1-14 1:15-26 2:1-13 2:14-40 2:41-47 3:1-26 4:1-31 4:32-5:16 5:17-42 6:1-7 6:8-8:3	Divine Sovereignty in Acts The Structure of Acts Interpreting Narrative Interpreting Speeches The Old Testament in Acts The Holy Spirit in Acts Eschatology of Acts	Liefeld, pp. 15-127 Peterson, pp. 1-277 Thompson, pp. 17-101, 125-143 Powell, pp. 1-110 Spencer, pp. 13-93 Marshall/Peterson, pp. 1-81, 257-294, 327-348, 473-497 Foss, pp. 1-48
Weekend 2: October 5-6	8:4-25 8:26-40 9:1-31 9:32-43 10:1-11:18 11:19-30 12:1-25 13:1-3 13:4-12 13:13-52 14:1-28 15:1-35	Compassion for Poor and Outsiders Missionary Journeys Christology of Acts Salvation in Acts Jews and Gentiles in Acts	Peterson, pp. 277-446 Thompson, pp. 103-196 Spencer, pp. 94-169 Marshall/Peterson, pp. 83-256, 499-518 Foss, pp. 49-64 [Liefeld or Powell]
Weekend 3: November 2-3	15:36-16:10 16:11-40 17:1-15 17:16-34 18:1-22 18:23-19:7 19:8-40 20:1-38 21:1-40 22:1-29 22:29-23:11 23:12-35 24:1-27 25:1-22 25:23-26:32 27:1-44 28:1-15 28:16-31	Salvation in Acts Ecclesiology (The Church) Journey Motif Church and State Tongues and Prophecy Teaching Acts	Peterson, pp. 446-725 Spencer, pp. 169-251 Marshall/Peterson, pp. 295-324, 349-472, 521-544 Foss, pp. 65-100 Allen, pp. 6-130 [Liefeld or Thompson or Powell]

Reading Report

1. How many times did you read the Book of Acts between August 1 and November 2, 2012?

2. How many pages did you read of each of the following books? (You do not need to read from all these books. All your reading could be from Peterson if you prefer. To receive full credit you should have read 400 pages by 10/5 and 750 by 11/2 [or 700 by 11/2 if your read Acts at least twice all the way through]. Indicate in each column only how much you read for that particular weekend.)

	Possible	Number of Pages Read			Total
		9/7	10/5	11/2	
Peterson, <i>The Acts of the Apostles</i>	725				
Liefeld, <i>Interpreting the Book of Acts</i>	115				
Spencer, <i>Journeying through Acts</i>	240				
Thompson, <i>The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus</i>	180				
Powell, <i>What Are They Saying about Acts?</i>	110				
Marshall and Peterson, <i>Witness to the Gospel</i>	545				
Allen, <i>Missionary Methods</i>	125				
Foss, <i>From Members to Disciples</i>	100				
Total Reading for Each Weekend:					

3. If you have any comments about your answers, write them here.

By signing here, you affirm that you have filled out this report accurately and honestly (Acts 5:1-11).

Signature

Date