

Sermon #1

"Onward, Forward"

Acts 1

Introduction: The book of Acts is not so much a volume of theology, but the 1st volume of church history. It is called the "**Acts of the Apostles.**" In other words, it is book filled with the acts, events or happenings of the early church.

However, it does communicate the fundamental, doctrinal truths of the church. It teaches that salvation is available through Jesus Christ alone. It teaches the work of the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned more than 50 times. He regenerates, baptizes, fills and sanctifies believers.

The Author of the book is Luke who wrote it sometime between 70-85 A.D.

The Purpose of Luke's writing Acts is mentioned by Warren Wiersbe, "*The book of Acts is the account of what the Holy Spirit displayed in the early church, as well as what the Holy Spirit desires for the modern church.*"

The book of Acts details the birth and growth of the early church through almost 33 years, almost 2 generations. He begins with the ascension of Christ and ends with the imprisonment of Paul in Rome. He introduces 95 people, 62 of which are never mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament.

I am calling the series, "**Church the Way It's Supposed to Be!**" The profession and practice, belief and behavior, truth and teaching, events and evangelism of the early church are still what God intends for the church of today.

As we begin the study, we are introduced to one of the most monumental days of church history. It is a day when some new marching orders are given.

"Onward, Forward!"

Outline

1. Foundation

40 days have transpired since the most earth shaking event of human history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first act of the resurrected Lord was to prepare the apostles for the work before them, as well as lay a foundation for that work.

A) *His Convincing Presence*

B) *His Confirming Power*

2. Education

The apostles now knew where to stand; however, now they needed to know what to say. They had been given an unmatched foundation, now the Risen Christ was about to give them an unequalled education. During these 40 days, the apostles were enrolled in seminary working toward their doctor's degree in discipleship, and the Risen Christ was the professor. He educated them in 3 main subjects:

A) *The Rule of His Government*

B) *The Resource of His Grace*

C) *The Return of His Glory*

3. Initiation

Christ had died, been buried, raised from the dead, and ascended back to Heaven. The apostles had seen Him, witnessed Him, and experienced Him. Now, He is gone. Now, they were about to experience an extreme initiation:

A) *In A Holy Place*

B) *With A Hungry People*

C) *For An Honorable Purpose*

1) *Continue in the Work of God*

2) *Commit to the Will of God*