



BI523 Acts of the Apostles

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Dan Rogers, PhD

Course description

This course chronicles the characters and events in the book of Acts to study the early development of the Christian church from its Jewish base to the inclusion of all peoples. The lives of the apostle Peter and apostle Paul set the background for studies of the General Epistles and Pauline Epistles.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 144 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Gallagher, R. and P. Hertig, editors. *Mission in Acts: Ancient Narratives in Contemporary Context*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004. ISBN 157075-493-4 (about \$27)

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Sacra Pagina. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2006. ISBN 0-8146-5807-5 (about \$30)

Soards, Marion L. *The Speeches in Acts*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994. ISBN 0-664-25221-4 (about \$17)

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest online price, use bookfinder.com.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lectures.** Lectures will be posted on Mondays.
(Approximately 1.5 hours per week.)
1. **Participate in forum discussions.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 5 percent of the final grade.
2. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 895 pages, or about 90 pages each week. (Approximately 6 hours per week.)
3. **Papers.** These count for 95 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 60 hours to work on these papers – an average of 5-6 hours per week. Additional details about each paper can be found in the full syllabus after registration.

Paper #1) Read the book of Acts and post a synopsis of chapter headings, grouped as you determine.

Papers #2, 3) Two sermon analyses: Analyze two assigned sermons/speeches in Acts.

Papers #4, 5) Two chapter reviews in *Mission in Acts* that relate to your two selected sermon passages in Acts.

Papers #6, 7) Review one of the following chapters in *Mission in Acts*. (3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 12)

Paper #8) Write what you believe to be seven of the most important lessons you have learned from this study on Acts and how they will impact and affect your ministry.