

Then And Now

- Introduction:
1. The book of Acts provides us with a wealth of information.
 2. Acts presents historical, doctrinal, as well as practical truths.
 3. Let's examine just a few of these truths in this lesson.

I. The Beginning of the Church

- A. Acts 2 is sometimes called the "hub" of the Bible.
- B. Prior to it, the prophets looked forward to this day, following it, the apostles and prophets looked back to this day as the beginning of the kingdom, the church.
- C. (Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:13).

II. God's Two Laws of Pardon

- A. There are two kinds of sinners who are in need of salvation, and each are given different instructions concerning their salvation.
- B. The Alien (non-Christian) Sinner
 1. (Acts 2:38).
 2. Repent and be baptized.
- C. The Christian Sinner
 1. (Acts 8:5-24).
 2. Repent and pray.

III. The Power of the Gospel

- A. (Romans 1:16).
- B. Contrast Saul in Acts 8 with Saul in Acts 9.
- C. It should serve to remind us not to be selective with whom we share the gospel.

IV. The Early Church's Evangelistic Zeal

- A. (Acts 8:1-4).
- B. Evangelism was the work of the church, not a select few.
- C. We preach that the Bible does not advocate a clergy/laity system, yet our practice may betray what we preach.

- Conclusion:
1. There are several facts in the book of Acts that would do us good to consider and then put into practice today.
 2. Hopefully, the facts we mentioned above will help to remind us of some historical, doctrinal, and practical truths from God's word.