

# The Evangelism of Acts

## INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts is the most evangelistic book in the entire Bible. In it, the power of the gospel is on display as the gospel goes forth from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson overviews the doctrines of grace in the history of the first-century church as contained in the Acts of the Apostles.

## LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Name key moments and verses in the book of Acts that teach the doctrines of grace
- Understand the mutual relationship between the sovereignty of God on one hand and evangelism and missions on the other

## KEY IDEAS

- The truth of God's sovereignty in salvation inspired the Apostles to preach the gospel with greater boldness in the book of Acts.
- Jesus Christ is both the author and the perfecter of our faith, as He both grants us faith and sustains us in our faith.
- The stubbornness of our hearts before conversion can only be overcome by the power of God in calling us to faith in Jesus Christ.

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

*What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

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- What was the early church like?
  - What is the most remarkable thing about the book of Acts?
  - Is the success of evangelism and missions dependent upon us? Why or why not?

### *Scripture Reading*

*Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.*

—Acts 13:26–31

- What is the message of salvation that Paul preached in this passage?

### During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

### *The Ultimate Source of Salvation*

0:00–10:23

- What language does Peter use to proclaim God's sovereignty in his sermon on the day of Pentecost?
- What two components of Acts 3:16 did Dr. Lawson use to show the significance of Jesus Christ for our faith?
- What two things are said to be granted by Christ in Acts 5:31?

- What two things were essential for Lydia's conversion?
- Besides the opening of Lydia's heart, how else is the word "opened" used in Acts 16?
- What two things did Dr. Lawson say we were unaware of before our conversion?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- What did Dr. Lawson say is required in order for us to be as faithful as the church was in the first century?
- Read Acts 13:48. Answer the three questions Dr. Lawson asked about this verse: (1) What comes first, being appointed to eternal life or believing? (2) Do any more believe than were appointed? (3) Do any fewer believe than were appointed?
- Who does Act 20:28 reveal is purchased by Christ's blood? Why is this significant?

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## PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His sovereign work in the early church.
- Confess your failure to love you neighbor as yourself through evangelism.
- Thank God for opening your heart to be attentive to His Word, both for when you first believed and weekly under the ministry of your local church.
- Ask God to continue to bless you through the faithful proclamation of the gospel in your church.