



Discussion Notes

Introduction to Acts

September 28, 2025 • Rikk Watts

*** These notes assume you have listened to and have already thought about the sermon. If not, you can find an audio version on our website.*

- How does Acts fit into our previous studies on Luke's Gospel, on the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians, and the LORD's prayer? What might this integration say to us?
- Acts is a first century document. Which "genre" does it most resemble, and what similar elements does it have?
- What can we say about the literary shape/structure of Acts? What are its key features, and what is Luke trying to tell us?
- Why are the speeches in Acts important? What can we learn from them (example: Peter's speech in Acts 2, and Stephen's in Acts 7)? What might they say to how we present of the Gospel?
- What are the main themes of Acts? Which of those are more surprising to you? What might this tell us about our new identity and what we too might expect? How should we respond?
- Speaking of our new identity, how did the earlier followers of Jesus describe themselves, and what did you learn about the first use of the tag "Christian"? Given the New Testament's response to that tag, what do think about the later church fathers taking it up? What might be the pros and cons? How might we refer to ourselves today? Why?
- Who are Luke's two key human figures in his account of God's confrontation with Hellenism (the Greek vision of reality)?
- What is astonishing about the most significant event in which Peter was involved? What might that say to those who encourage us to take up more of the Old Testament Law?
- What makes Paul's understanding of our new identity more difficult to grasp? What did you learn about some of the key social concerns in his world? How did his responses speak to you, and what did find confirming, challenging, or confusing?