

## The Book of Acts

# 2

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

Today we finish reading the book of **Acts**. In this second section – **chapters 16-28** – we see the Gentile Mission gather momentum, after the momentous decision handed down by the Jerusalem Council (**chapter 15**).

The author of **Acts**, Luke, is not just an impartial historian. He himself is a participant in the story, for in **16:11**, the author's grammar suddenly changes from third person (he, they) to first person plural (we), showing that at Troas, Luke himself joined Paul's missionary travels. From Luke's account, it is apparent that he stays behind at Philippi (note **17:1**), but from **21:1** onwards, he accompanies Paul until the very end (**Colossians 4:14**; **2 Timothy 4:11**; **Philemon 24**).

Archaeological research supports the historical credibility of **Acts**, and most scholars now regard Luke as a historian of the first order. As *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* points out:

“Besides being accurate in detail, Luke gives a remarkably vivid account of many phases of first-century life in the Mediterranean world, for example, the philosophical inquisitiveness of the Athenians (**17:17-18**) and the commercial monopoly of the silversmiths at the temple of Artemis in Ephesus (**19:24-34**). His picture of modes of travel of the day is far clearer than that set forth in the *Odyssey*. Whether on land by foot or horse (**23:24,32**) or chariot (**8:27-38**), or on sea by coastal freighter (**21:1-3**; **27:1-5**), Luke's account is filled with local color. The story of the wreck of Paul's ship is the most exciting and dramatic narrative of sea adventure in ancient literature.”

The book of **Acts** finishes with Paul still under house arrest (**28:30-31**), prior to his trial before Caesar. Since Luke goes into such great detail about Paul's trials before Felix and Festus, it is reasonable to assume that the book of **Acts** was completed prior to Paul's Roman trial.

Let's now settle into a comfortable chair and read **Acts 16-28**.

# Memory Verse

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:11-12

## Your Fishing Kit

This is the thirty-seventh verse in your fishing kit. This verse follows on from **1 John 5:10** and tells us in no uncertain terms how God defines “life.” The eternal life given by God is “in his Son.” In other words, you receive eternal life together with the Son of God as a package deal – you cannot separate the two. In fact, **verse 12** goes on to explain: If you have the Son of God, you have eternal life. If you do not have the Son of God, you do not have eternal life. Period.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

<b>John 3:16</b>	<b>Isaiah 55:6-7</b>	<b>John 1:12</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:17</b>
<b>John 3:18</b>	<b>Romans 5:8</b>	<b>John 3:3</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:21</b>
<b>John 3:36</b>	<b>1 John 4:10</b>	<b>John 5:24</b>	<b>Matthew 10:32-33</b>
<b>Ephesians 1:7-8</b>	<b>Acts 2:38</b>	<b>John 6:37</b>	<b>Romans 2:4</b>
<b>Romans 3:23</b>	<b>Acts 3:19</b>	<b>John 8:32</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Romans 6:23</b>	<b>Acts 4:12</b>	<b>John 8:36</b>	<b>1 John 5:10</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:5</b>	<b>John 14:6</b>	<b>John 10:10</b>	<b>1 John 5:11-12</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:8</b>	<b>John 10:28</b>	<b>John 14:1-3</b>
<b>Isaiah 59:1-2</b>	<b>1 John 1:9</b>	<b>Romans 10:9</b>	<b>John 16:33</b>
<b>Isaiah 64:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:10</b>	<b>Romans 10:13</b>	<b>Revelation 3:20</b>

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.