

## **Acts 20 Study Guide**

### **March 11, 2009**

We have stated from the beginning of our study that Acts is the story of the movement of the Holy Spirit from “Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria to the ends of the earth.” (**Acts 1:8**)

The authors of God’s Holy Fire (ACU Press, 2002) wrote the following about Acts: “Too often, we have read it as a manual on evangelism or a rulebook for organizing churches.”

I thought it might be helpful to retrace some of our journey through Acts and look at specific examples/teachings concerning the following:

- 1) Assembling on first day of week
- 2) Weekly participation in Lord’s Supper
- 3) Appointment and responsibilities, etc. of elders

Most of us probably have been asked to explain why we, as members of the Church of Christ, believe and practice as we do.

For this assignment, I suggest we restrict our initial study to Luke/Acts. However, feel free to go wherever your study takes you, using additional references where appropriate.

#### **1. Assembling on First Day of Week**

**Acts 20:7** is the first indication in scripture that Christians had begun to meet on the first day of the week (also referred to as the Lord’s Day).

Looking back through Acts, where did Peter, Paul, etc. usually go to preach?

There are other meeting places described – where/when did they meet? (include your references).

Is there a New Testament passage that issues (through Jesus/apostles, writers, etc.) a clear directive concerning the day of the week Christians should meet?

Are there other scriptures that can serve as examples? Please list and discuss below.

**2. Weekly Participation in Lord's supper**

**Acts 20:7** is the usual reference when we discuss taking the Lord's Supper every Sunday.

Note: the term, "breaking bread" is commonly used in reference to the eating of an ordinary meal and also to the bread and the cup at the Lord's table. From our vantage, are we able to distinguish the difference?

Are there other passages that issue a clear directive as to a specified day or frequency?

Are there passages that issue a clear directive (to partake) without specifying a day?

Are there passages that provide an example?

Please note what Luke writes describing the last Passover meal Jesus celebrated with His disciples in **Luke 22:15-20**. What can we learn from this passage that helps us better understand the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

**Read Luke 24:30**. What happened earlier that day (**24:1-7**)?

What event immediately preceded this meal (**:13-29**)?

On what day of the week did this meal occur?

Are there other passages that bring more clarity to the study of this topic?

What is your opinion of participating in the Lord's Supper Sunday morning and again Sunday evening? Is there scripture that addresses this?

**3. Appointment, and Responsibilities, etc. of Elders**

The synagogue of first century normally had a governing body of local elders. The early church seemed to follow this pattern.

Notice that Luke first mentions elders in **Acts 11** (probably 13 – 15 years after Pentecost).

What do we learn about elders from the following passages?

**Acts 11:30**

**Acts 14:23**

**Acts 15:6**

**Read Acts 20:17-38** and consider the reasons that could have prompted Paul to send for the Ephesian elders.

What instructions/warnings does Paul give these elders?

