

*WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.*

**COURSE:** WSBM 227 Book of Acts

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. J. Bryan Born (bborn@willingdon.org)

**DATE:** Wednesdays | October 2 – November 27, 2024 | 7:00pm-9:00pm | 3030

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This study of the Book of Acts pays careful attention to its theology as well as to its practical application for Christian life and mission. God's Spirit worked powerfully in the early church as many were drawn to salvation in Jesus, the sick healed and the Gospel message spread from Jerusalem to Rome. This examination of the Spirit's work in the past will help committed Christ followers apply the truths of Scripture to the present.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Summarize the general plotlines of Acts, with an historical framework for the development of the early Church
- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the life/mission of the church and the believer
- Apply principles from Acts, both individually and within the larger church body
- Engage more intentionally in God's mission of advancing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally and globally

### REQUIRED READING

Merida, Tony. *Exalting Jesus in Acts*. Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary. Holman Reference, 2017.

### COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
October 2	Introduction and 1:1-11	
October 9	No Class – Prayer Summit	
October 16	1:12-2:47	
October 23	3:1-6:7	Bible Reading
October 30	6:8-9:31	
November 6	9:32-12:24	Textbook Review
November 13	12:25-16:5	
November 20	16:6-19:41	
November 27	20:1-28:31	Topical Study; Response

## STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

---

### 1. Bible Reading (10%)

Students are required to read through the entire book of Acts. Use any translation you desire; however, a more dynamic equivalent translation is recommended.

**Due: October 23, 2024**

### 2. Textbook Review (40%)

Students must read through all of the assigned textbook pages (half of the grade will be given for finishing the assigned reading). After reading the textbook, students must write a 500-word reflection paper in which they discuss both the most significant insight they gained from the book as well as one practical application gleaned from their reading.

**Due: November 6, 2024**

### 3. Topical Study (40%)

Students will choose a topic from the list below and study how that theme is developed throughout the book of Acts. Students should begin by compiling a list of every passage in the book of Acts that pertains to their topic. After studying the topic thoroughly, students are to write a 1000-1500 word paper sharing what they have learned in a logical and organized manner. This assignment should be completed without the use of secondary sources (please resist the temptation to use online word searches as this will undercut the assignment). Only a Bible is necessary.

**Due: November 27, 2024**

#### List of Possible Topics

Atonement	Exorcism	Identity	Preaching
Baptism	Fellowship	Idolatry	Prophecy
Christology	Food/Meals	Jew-Gentile	Repentance
Church	Food Laws	Relations	Resurrection
Church and Israel	Generosity	Leadership	Salvation
Church Structure	Gospel	Miracles	Social Justice
Church Order	Guidance	Mission	Suffering
Discipleship	Harmony	Money	Temple
Ethics	Healing	Persecution	Tongues
Ethnicity	Holy Spirit	Politics	Witness
Evangelism	Hospitality	Prayer	Women

### 4. Response (10%)

This assignment is simply for you to write how you feel called to respond to what you have learned in the book of Acts. I believe any study of Scripture demands that we respond to what God is calling us to through his Word. Take 250-500 words to write how you feel called to respond to God after having studied the book of Acts.

**Due: November 27, 2024**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

---

- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: World Dominion Press, 1930.
- Bock, Darrell. *Acts*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Bruce, F.F. *The Book of Acts*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. *The Acts of the Apostles*. ANTC. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1992.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles*. TNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Stott, John R. W. *The Spirit, the Church and the World: The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1990.
- Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Toews, J.B. "The Theology of Mission in the Acts." In *The Church in Mission*. Edited by A.J. Klassen. Fresno: Board of Christian Literature Mennonite Brethren Church, 1967.