

Introduction- HERE IS A LETTER FROM A DOCTOR TO AN UNKNOWN FRIEND THAT FOUND ITS WAY INTO SCRIPTURE

1. In Most Bibles it is titled "The Acts of the Apostles"- though only 2 are mentioned much
2. In short we call it "Acts" and its account as a diary of the Church is still going.
3. Luke might well have called it "my second letter" though it takes 2 hours to read.

This is our Book of the Year- and we want to take another look at its introduction!

I.- THE FRIEND * ACTS 1:1 * O THEOPHILUS

A. THE NAME ITSELF * THEOPHILUS

1. Bible names have meanings- and the meanings often reveal the person's character
2. Theo- meand - God - Though we would hesitate to do this today- it was quite common then
3. Philus- means to love as a friend- brotherly love, companionship- **One who is a friend of**

B. THE TITLE- Luke 1:3 - "Most Excellent" *Will You Seek to be a friend of God? - God!*

1. Here is a title used for royalty- by Paul in Acts 26:25- "Most noble Festus" - Honorable may
2. We might say that anyone who loves God is noble- if not before conversion- certainly after!
3. For the person who believes the report of Jesus becomes a Son of God- joint heir with Christ.

C. THE ACTUAL PERSON - *only one "Educated guess" -*

1. Clementines Recollections - 150 AD approx. told of a Theophilus who consecrated his palace
2. as a church- he was the mayor of the city of Antioch where Paul, Silas, Luke- ministered.
3. This may typify anyone who loves God- read this as instructions to your own heart

II.- THE WRITER * ACTS 1:1 * WHO IS "I" MENTIONED HERE?

A. HERE IS AN UNUSUAL BOOK

1. Written by one hand and mind- not a collection of tales, but with Unity and Integrity
2. great scientific accuracy is shown here- milage between towns, titles for Roman leaders
3. It has a great tenderness for the small man, the woman, the child- its author cared.

B. some HAVE SEEN PROBLEMS IN ITS AUTHORITY AND AUTHORSHIP

1. Some cannot accept its account of miracles, its quotation of speeches, its conflicts with /popular religi
2. The "We" passages some accept- but how could he know about the "they" passages
3. For a forger, editor, or other author to have been this accurate would be the greater miracle

B. THIS IS THE SECOND LETTER* OF THE AUTHOR OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

1. This book has a stamp of style, form, personality- the same as the author of Luke.
2. This person traveled much with Paul- heard of his accounts of his ministry for "They" passag
3. This person met Philip (21:8), the church in Jerusalem (21:18) heard from the Apostles mouth
But GOD USES A PERSON TO WRITE* GOD INSPIRES HIS WORD* SCRIPTURE!

III.- THE PURPOSE Acts 1:1,8

What great problem was it written to solve, what great battle to fight?

A. MANY FALSE PURPOSES ARE ATTRIBUTED TO LUKE FOR WRITING* BE AWARE OF THEM.

1. A biography of the Apostles- Only Paul & Peter- and a lot who were not apostles.
2. to Reconcile the Petrine Judaisers with the Pauline Gentiles- Peter-Universal, Paul-Orthodox.
3. to give the Gentiles an appology to bring Christianity to the Gentile mind?

B. THE APPARENT PURPOSE Acts 1:1,8 An expanding witness to the world do and teach--"

1. This was introduced in such a way to make it a carryover of Luke-"all that Jesus began to/
2. This would continue that teaching through the medium of the Apostles and Evangelists
3. Step by step we can see the outreach of the Gospel into the total world-Church Age.

C. THE REAL PURPOSE LUKE'S OWN WITNESS AND SOULWINNING THROUGH LETTERWRITING!

1. Luke 1:4 explains that he wrote so that Theophilus could know of certainty- personal testim
2. Perhaps the Gospel did not finish the Job- in Acts are many clear accounts of Salvation.
3. have you carried out your own divine commission to win the Lost as well as Luke did!

Concl. THERE IS A LASTING* PERSONAL APPEAL TO THIS BOOK

1. You can know of a certainty the truth of the Gospel - if you will seek God - seek to be a friend
2. You can carry out a witness- many different ways shown in Acts- and Holy Spirit uses all.
3. The proof of the inspiration of this book- if you read it - it will change your life-
The undergirding power of the Holy Spirit workes as its words are read!