Acts – Tonic for your Soul

Calvin in Geneva

Whose acts?

"Whose acts is this book talking about?"

- **'the Acts of the Apostles'?**

... NOT a very helpful description of the book.

- **"Acts of the Holy Spirit".**

... not really the main things the book of Acts goes on about.

Acts 1:1-2 ... a two volume work on the works of Jesus.

Acts 1:1-2 "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach [2] until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen."

= "Acts of Jesus"

Acts 1:8. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"

The world of Acts

Christianity ... about 40 days old in Acts 1:9

... the Roman world that dominated this big picture just wanted tolerance.

Christians knew that this sort of tolerance was impossible for them to adopt because of the unique claims of Jesus.

... as Acts shows us, they preached the gospel in the market places, in the synagogues and in the fields ...

What happens in Acts?

... it does not seek to give us insights into <u>all</u> that was happening in the early church.

The purpose of Acts

Acts is about how Jesus acts (through his people who are empowered by his Spirit) to bring his gospel to the world.

Acts 1:8, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth".

... gospel growth and gospel spread that Acts is concerned about.

...a few examples

Acts 2:41,47, Acts 4:4, Acts 6:7

See also 8:4, 9:31, 11:21, 12:24, 13:43-44, 13:49, 14:21, 16:5, 19:20, 28:23, 30

... key times of growth

... gospel ministry is not a walk in the park.

Luke records for us both the trials and the triumphs faced by those who stand in Jesus name.

So why is Acts tonic for our souls?

1) **Acts is God's word**
2) **What should be driving us as followers of Jesus today.**
3) **How God works through those who follow him.**
4) **How should we live as God's people, with a gospel focussed priority, in a world that is STILL hostile to the gospel?**

My one thing