

the **Acts**  
of the Apostles



# Acts of THE Apostles?

## Peter

Andrew

John

Bartholomew

Matthew

Thaddeus

## Paul

James

Philip

Thomas

James

Simon the Zealot

What mission work did the other Apostles undertake?

Theophilus

Theos = God;

Philos = Love

“Most Excellent” indicates high ranking  
Roman

Making case for Christianity as acceptable  
faith – not to be persecuted.

*Which bits would you emphasise for  
someone in authority today who is  
interested in Jesus?*



# Two Parts

Early years of the Church  
(Chapters 1 - 12)

Mission of St Paul  
(Chapters 13 – 26)

# Acts of the Holy Spirit

- 1: 5,8: Vital necessity to wait for HS; mission will be in his power.
- 2: 4: Incredible experience of descent of HS and resulting ability to preach to crowds in their languages.
- 4: 8,31 Peter & believers bold to speak out in power of HS.
- 6: 8; 7: 54 Stephen' preaching and martyrdom inspired.
- 10: 44 HS given to Cornelius & Co - ?before response
- 13 : 2, 4 Paul's travels initiated by HS.
- 15: 28 Decision of Council of Jerusalem re Gentile believers guided by HS.
- 16: 6-7 Paul guided in his journey.
- 21:11 Paul warned of imprisonment ahead
- Etc.

At what times have you discovered the Holy Spirit leading you step by step?

What hard times have you had that turned out to be the way God used to bring something better?

# Organisation and Life of the First Christians

Community Life: 2: 42-47.

Confident Prayer: 3: 23ff.

Courage in face of opposition: 3:8ff; 5: 29ff

Healing ministry: 5: 12ff

Willingness to face new challenges

What can we learn from each of these for  
the life of All Saints in 2014?



# Paul's Mission Strategy

- \* Evolved - dependant on HS.
- \* Felt definite call to Rome (19:21)
- \* Ongoing problem of Jews and Gentiles.
- \* Not deterred by opposition..
- \* Clear that Gospel no challenge to Rome
- \* Presentation of Gospel varied, according to hearers

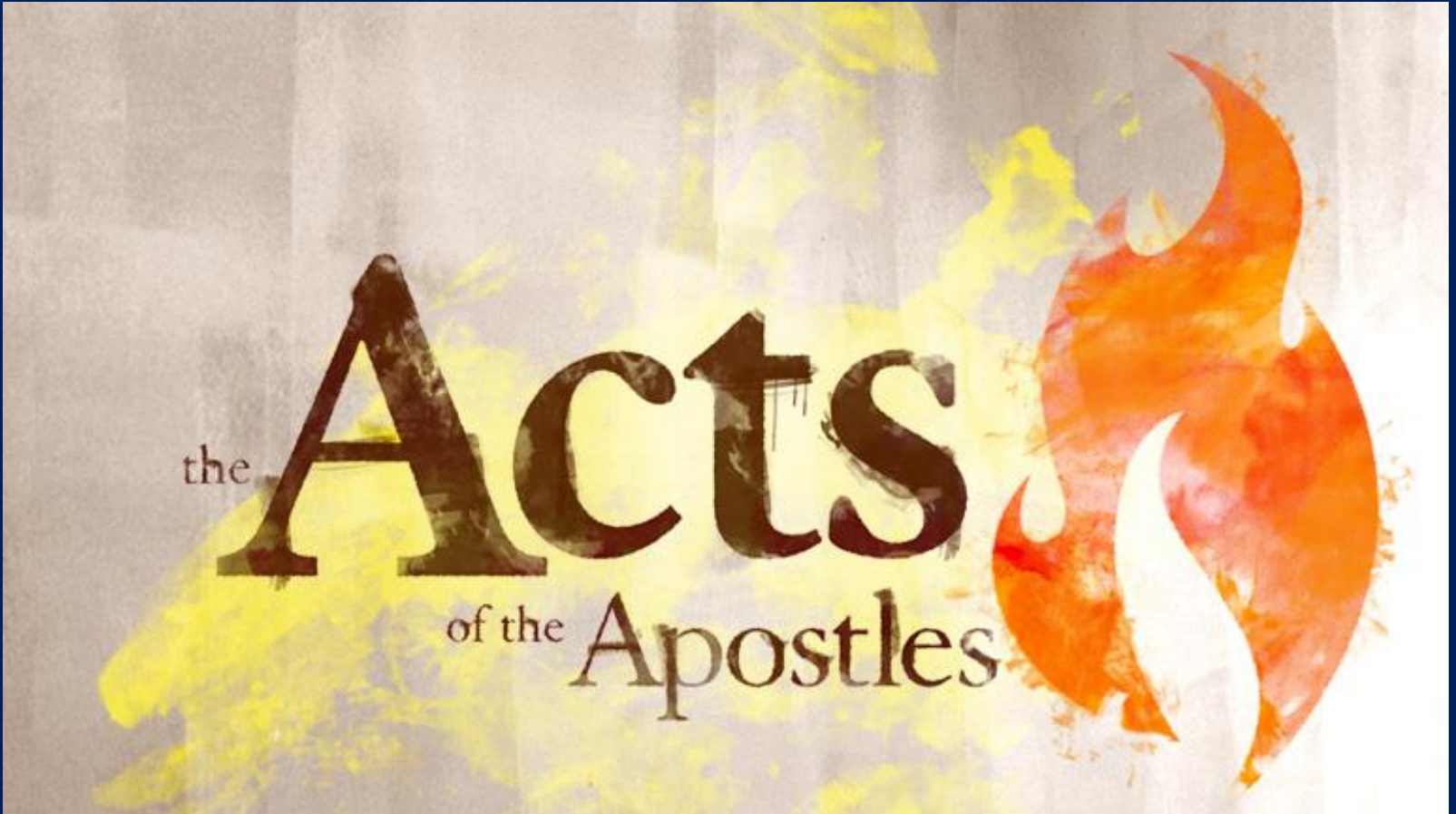
Which groups in today's world are particularly challenged by the Christian message?

What different emphasis would you place in sharing the Gospel with:

An elderly English woman?

A teenager on the street?

A Muslim?



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How do we transpose its principles  
to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?



*That's all Folks!*

What new insights have you gained through this series about the writing and purpose of the Bible?

How will this help you with your Bible Reading in future?

How can you resolve, with God's help, to reflect on the Bible more regularly and more effectively?

**Read the Bible for all it's worth!!!!**