LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 03 Dec 2017 Acts 13 The Gospel Message
2) 10 Dec Acts 14 Misguided Worship
3) 17 Dec Acts 15:1-31 Available to ALL
5) 31 Dec Acts 15:32-41 16:1-5 Strengthened
6) 07 Jan 2018 Acts 16 A Changed Family
7) 14 Jan Acts 17 The Unknown Known
8) 21 Jan Ps 139 Sanctity of Life Value ALL
9) 28 Jan Acts 18-19 Incomplete Picture
10) 04 Feb Acts 20-21 Delivered
11) 11 Feb Acts 22-25 The Testimony
12) 18 Feb Acts 26-27 Answering Critics
13) 25 Feb Acts 28 Always on Mission

INTRODUCTION
• Paul is sent to Rome for trial and suffers shipwreck on Malta. Again, Luke spends a considerable amount of ink (2 chapters) on a trial and a treacherous sea voyage. These events must be important.
• Who was the most prolific NT writer? Was it Paul, John, or Luke? Paul wrote more books (13) and chapters (75), but Luke excelled in writing 13% more content in just 2 books (Luke and Acts).
• Luke, more than any other NT writer, established the historical reliability of the New Testament. If his facts about tangible places, dates, and people were accurate, then, most likely, so were his accounts on the miraculous.

Some Bible Stats

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<th></th>
<th>Luke</th>
<th>John</th>
<th>Paul</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Books</td>
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PASSAGE

Paul Makes His Defense
- v1-3. Paul is allowed to speak. Notice he began with “I consider myself fortunate to be standing before you today.” What would our position be? Would we feel like a victim? Miserable? Mistreated?
- v4-8. Paul summarizes the core issue of his defense – the Resurrection of the Dead! If we were brought to trial, what would we be accused of?
- v9-11. Paul, before his conversion, acknowledged he was a terrorist to believers. He did not directly kill anyone, but he voted for their execution. And he relentlessly tortured some to reject their faith (v11)
  - Why would God want to save such a despicable?
  - Paul was doing evil, and God’s word says, “...the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1Pet 3:12), and “Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land” (Ps 101:8), to name a few.
  - Consider this. God frequently shows mercy to those wreaking havoc out of ignorance. Paul said it best, “...even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor, yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief”. 1Tim 1:13
  - And...“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent” ..........................Acts 17:30
  - Yet, Paul would pay a steep price for his ignorance, “...for I (God) will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” ..........................Acts 9:16
  - Is ignorance still costly today? Any examples?

Acts 26:1-11

Paul Recounts His Salvation Experience
- vv12-17. Sometimes the best form of evangelizing is simply explaining how and why you came to Christ.
- Paul thought he was doing God a favor by vigorously wiping out a false religious cult. Do we think we are doing God a favor by zealously running over people with what we know?

Acts 26:12-23

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS
• There are many types of people in the world from emperors and governors, kings and queens, to soldiers and sailors, teachers and students, slaves and paupers – and all are in need of the Gospel.
• How will you share your faith this year to change the world you live in? Will you be bold or shy; aggressive or passive?

NEXT WEEK: Acts 28. We see that Paul healed everyone on the island of Malta of any & every ailment. Wow! Is this a one-of-a-kind event or a repeatable event? Should this be normative for today? □ Yes □ No □ Don’Know □ Don’t Care □ Maybe

That awkward moment at church when you go for a handshake...

... and they go for a hug.

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