# Lesson 4

The Gospel and the Christian Church began in Jerusalem and now is going to the world through the Apostles! (Chapters 8-12).

**ACTS CHAPTER EIGHT.**

**1-3**. Saul of Tarsus Persecutes the Church. Chapter eight begins a new period in Church history. This is the first “Great Persecution” of the Church. Jesus Christ was killed on a cross. Jewish religious leaders fought the Gospel from its beginning. This time is filled with persecution of the Christians. This is the most severe persecution the Church has experienced until this time. This was an organized effort to search out and eliminate Christians.

**4-25**. Philip Preached in Samaria.

**26-40**. Philip taught the Ethiopian Eunuch.

**WE WILL STUDY ACTS CHAPTER NINE.**

**1-19**. Saul from Tarsus was converted to Christianity.

**20-22**. Saul preached in Damascus. (He is called Paul for the first time inActs 13:9.)

In **Acts 23-25**, Saul Escapes from the Jews.

In **Acts 26-31**, Saul visits Jerusalem.

In **Acts 32-35**, God healed Aeneas through the ministry of Peter.

In **Acts 36-40**, Peter visited Lydda and Joppa.

**WE WILL STUDY ACTS CHAPTER TEN.**

In **Acts 1-33**, Peter met Cornelius. God humbles Peter and teaches Peter a lesson. God does not view man by his ethnic group and neither should we. God views man according to his relation with Jesus Christ. God sees all people as either SAVED or LOST.

In **Acts 34-43**, Gentiles Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!. God does not show favoritism to anyone. All God’s free gifts (healing and redemption) are for anyone who believes and obeys God!

In **Acts 44-48**, People who are not Jews received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. God saved and healed by Peter in Jerusalem in Acts 2:1-5:42. God saved and healed by Peter in Samaria in Acts 8:14-25. God saved and healed people who were not Jews in Acts 10:44; 11:15.

**WE WILL STUDY ACTS CHAPTER ELEVEN.**.

**1-18**. Peter tells the Church Elders in Jerusalem about what God is doing among people who are not Jews. Salvation of a person must come first. Religious form, ceremony, rituals, rules, and regulations are never as important as a man’s eternal soul..

They should have rejoiced because sinners were being saved. Instead their spirits were full of contention and divisiveness because some religious practices were disobeyed.

Prejudice can blind us to God's desire to save all men. All men are to be saved no matter who they are. No church should exclude anyone. The church's mission is to reach both the poor and the rich, dirty and the clean..

**19-30**. The Church in Antioch.

**23**. The Effect of the Grace of God. The invisible Grace of God was made visible. Grace is invisible like the wind but it can be felt. The Grace of God was visible because its influence was visible. Grace like gravity is invisible but you can see the influence of gravity..

The Grace of God powerfully helped Barnabas.

**WE WILL STUDY ACTS CHAPTER TWELVE.**.

**1-5**. The Apostle James was killed and Peter was taken to prison. Persecution came to the most active Witnesses of Jesus. Men killed one of the three leading disciples of Jesus when they killed James.

It was time for the Feast of Passover. Hundreds of thousands of Jews came to Jerusalem. People were filled with a spirit of celebration. Herod tried to gain popularity among many people by persecuting the Christians.

Herod arrested the Apostle Peter. Herod was planning to kill Peter after the Feast of Passover. By the time in Acts chapter twelve, Peter was arrested three times.

Peter was guarded by four men at a time twenty-four hours a day. 12:4,5

Herod must of felt the pain of the innocent Christian’s blood on his hands.

**6-19**. Peter was delivered from prison.

**20-25**. Herod, the persecutor of Christians, died a horrible death.

**24.** The Good News of Jesus Wins Every Battle! The Word of God mixed with faith cannot be stopped. God has commanded people to preach the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. God has commanded God’s Word to produce like fruit seeds produce fruit.

**25.** John Mark was the student of three great servants of God.: Peter, 12:12; Paul, 12:25; Barnabas.

**Lesson 4 Study Questions**

1. Ch. 8
2. Ch. 9
3. Ch. 10
4. Ch. 11
5. Ch. 12