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# The ACTS of the Apostles



## The ACTS of the Apostles

"The Kingdom of God, the Spirit, and the Church"

Acts 1:6-26

1 The Kingdom of God is <u>spiritual</u> in its character

It does not seek political dominion (like the disciples had hoped)

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God works in ways that only HE can get credit for!

Nor should we super-spiritualize the Kingdom as if it's only heavenly, not earthly at all

Nor should we super-spiritualize the Kingdom as if it's only heavenly, not earthly at all

Though we are not to identify the Kingdom with any political ideology or program, it has radical political and social implications.
i.e. – don't just gaze up into the sky and do nothing (like the disciples began to do)

Illustration: William Wilberforce

We have a universal commission, a redemptive mission, to make disciples of ALL nations

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1 Peter 2:9 Rev. 1:5-6

1:8 broadened the disciples' horizons

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1:8 is an "outline" for Acts Ch. 1-7 Jerusalem Ch. 8 - Samaria Ch. 9-28 - The Uttermost

Imagine if the churches in Jerusalem/Judea said:

"There is plenty of 'mission work' right here!"
"We can all stay HERE and be missionaries."

"We don't need to worry about Samaria, much less the uttermost. We need more ministries right here!" 3 The Kingdom of God is gradual in its expansion

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"Times" and "Seasons" –
we must be willing to be left in ignorance

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"Times" and "Seasons" –
we must be willing to be left in ignorance

Lesslie Newbingin:

"The Church is the pilgrim people of God, on the move, hastening to the ends of the earth... and the end of time... it cannot be understood except as missionary and eschatological."



Don't be wrapped up in American politics

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Are your political views "Biblical"?

Don't be wrapped up in American politics

Are your political views "Biblical"?
What about on Immigration/immigrants?
What about caring for the poor?
What about systemic racial injustice?

2020 U.S. Presidential Election:

People who attended church at least once a month:

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White-

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Whose political views were more "Biblical"?

### "Evangelical" means "Good News", not "Political Right"

APPLICATION: Don't be a Nationalist

Don't be a Nationalist (i.e. November 2024 is coming!)





Don't be a <u>Nationalist</u> (i.e. November 2024 is coming!) Develop a <u>global</u> mindset

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How do you feel when people around you

speak a foreign language?

Don't be a Nationalist (i.e. November 2024 is coming!)

Develop a global mindset

How do you feel when people around you

speak a foreign language?

How do you feel when you learn that

Bosnians or Iraqis live in YOUR neighborhood?

Don't be a <u>Nationalist</u> (i.e. November 2024 is coming!)

Develop a <u>global</u> mindset

How do you feel when people around you

speak a foreign language?

How do you feel when you learn that

Bosnians or Iraqis live in YOUR neighborhood?

Would you rent to people from Arab countries?

Don't be a <u>Nationalist</u> (i.e. November 2024 is coming!)

Develop a <u>global</u> mindset

How do you feel when people around you

speak a foreign language?

How do you feel when you learn that

Bosnians or Iraqis live in YOUR neighborhood?

How will we feel about working with refugees from Afghanistan?



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Acts if filled with it. Epistles are filled with it.
The church was divided!

When you talk about politics/crime/economics, is it "those" people?

Do you want the best church we can build?

Do you want the best church we can build?

Or the church that only GOD can get credit for?