

The Bible in the Church, part 1

The Book of Acts, part 48 | Acts 20:1 – 24 | David Platt, MBC Interim Teaching Pastor & President of the IMB

Acts 2:41

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Acts 4:4

“But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.”

Acts 4:29

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness . . .”

Acts 4:31

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 6:2 – 4

“And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’”

Acts 6:7

“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”

Acts 8:4

“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”

Acts 8:14

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John . . .”

Acts 8:25

“Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.”

Acts 10:44

“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.”

Acts 11:1

“Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.”

Acts 11:19

“Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.”

Acts 12:24

“But the word of God increased and multiplied.”

Acts 13:5

“When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.”

Acts 13:7

“He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.”

Acts 13:44

“The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.”

Acts 13:46

“And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.’”

Acts 13:48 – 49

“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.”

Acts 14:25

“And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia . . .”

Acts 15:35 – 36

“But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’”

Acts 16:32

“And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”

Acts 17:11

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

Acts 18:5

“When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.”

Acts 18:11

“And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”

Acts 19:10

“This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.”

Acts 19:20

“So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.”

1. God intends for His Word to be taught.

Acts 20:2

“ . . . encouraged . . .”

Acts 20:7

“ . . . on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”

Acts 20:8 – 9

“There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.”

Acts 20:10

“But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, ‘Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.’”

Acts 20:11

“And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.”

Acts 20:18b – 19

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews . . .”

Acts 20:20 – 21

[you know] “. . . how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 20:27

“. . . for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”

Acts 20:31

“. . . that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one . . .”

2 Timothy 4:2

“. . . preach the word . . .”

Acts 2:42

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching . . .”

2. God intends for His Word to be discussed.

3. God intends for His Word to be obeyed.

Acts 20:18b – 19

“. . . You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews . . .”

Acts 20:34

“. . . you yourselves know . . .”

Deuteronomy 28:1

“. . . faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments . . .”

4. God intends for His Word to be visualized.

Romans 4:25

“. . . who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

Romans 6:4

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

5. God intends for His Word to be spread.

Acts 20:22 – 24

“And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. . .”

Acts 20:22 – 24

“. . . But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”