



WEEK 6: The Church—it's not just a local thing!

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20 NASB*

*...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **even to the remotest part of the earth**. – Acts 1:8 NASB*

Second Journey (A.D. 49-52): Antioch → SYRIA → CILICIA [Tarsus] → Derbe → **Lystra** (Timothy) → GALATIA [Iconium, Pisidian Antioch] → PHRYGIA → MYSIA → **Troas** (Luke) → Samothrace → Neopolis → **Philippi** (Lydia, slave girl, jailer) → Amphipolis → Apollonia → **Thessalonica** → **Berea** → **Athens** (Areopagus) → **Corinth** (1.5 years, Priscilla & Aquila, Gallio, 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS written) → Cenchrea → **Ephesus** (brief visit) → Caesarea → Jerusalem → **Antioch**.

Third Journey (A.D. 56-58): Antioch → GALATIA → PHRYGIA → "Upper country" → **Ephesus** (2 years, John's disciples, Demetrius, 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS written) → Macedonian districts [Philippi, et al] → GREECE [**Corinth**, et al] (ROMANS written) → MACEDONIA [Philippi, et al] → **Troas** (Eutychus) → Assos → Mitylene → Chios → Samos → **Miletus** (Ephesian elders) → Cos → Rhodes → Patara → Tyre → Ptolemais → **Caesarea** (Philip, Agabus) → **Jerusalem** (Paul's arrest).

1. "**Go** therefore..."

- **Messengers go out** (15:26-41; 18:27)
- **Messengers directed** (16:6-10; 20:22-23; 21:4, 14)
- **Messengers encouraged** (18:9-10)

2. "...**baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."

- **Messengers proclaim** (16:10b, 13, 25, 31-34; 17:2-3; 18:4-5, 19b, 24-28; 19:1-7, 8-10)
 - **Positive response: Jews/Gentiles interested** (16:29-30; 17:11, 19-21, 32; 18:20; 19:8), **Jews/Gentiles believed** (16:5b, 14-15; 17:4, 12, 34; 18:8; 19:5-6, 10, 18-20, 26)
 - **Negative response: Jewish/Gentile threats to message** (18:6, cf. 13:45-46; 19:9), **Jewish/Gentile threats to messengers** (16:19ff; 17:5-9, 13; 18:12-17; 19:23ff; 20:3, 19)
- **Messengers respond: 1. Defend the message; 2. Turn from Jews to Gentiles** (18:6-7; 19:9b)
- **Messengers depart** (16:40; 17:10, 14; 18:1, 18, 21; 20:1, 37-38)

3. “...**teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you...”

- **Messengers strengthen churches** (15:39—16:6; 18:23, 27b; 19:22; 20:1-3)
- **Messengers develop leaders** (15:40a; 16:1-3; 17:14b, 15; 18:2-3, 5, 18-19a, 27-28; 19:22; 20:4-5, 17-38 [esp. 28-32, cf. 14:23, 26; 15:40])
- **Messengers write letters**
 - **Epistles from Second Journey: 1 Thessalonians** (A.D. 51, Corinth), **2 Thessalonians** (A.D. 51, Corinth)
 - **Epistles from Third Journey: 1 Corinthians** (A.D. 55, Ephesus), **2 Corinthians** (A.D. 56, Ephesus), **Romans** (A.D. 57-58, Corinth)

4. “**All authority has been given to Me** in heaven and on earth. ...and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

- **Confirmation through visions** (16:9-10; 18:9-10)
- **Confirmation through tongues, prophesying** (19:6)
- **Confirmation through miracles**, e.g. healings (19:11-12; 20:9-10, 12; see also slave girl’s exorcism in 16:18 [cf. failed exorcism in 19:13-17]; “prison break” in 16:26)

Significant Transitional Events in Acts								
Reference	Recipients of the Spirit	Time	Place	Leader(s) present	Laying on of Hands	Tongues	Audience	Purpose of Event
2:1-13	Believing Jews (Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ)	After conversion	Jerusalem (Judea)	Twelve Apostles	No	Spoke of mighty deeds of God in tongues	Unsaved Jews	To validate (for unsaved Jews) the coming of the Spirit (as Joel prophesied) and the Apostles’ gospel message
8:14-17	Believing Samaritans (“half-Jews”)	After conversion	Samaria	Apostles Peter and John	Yes	<i>No mention of tongues</i>	Saved Jews	To validate (for saved Jews) God’s acceptance of Samaritans
10:44-48	Believing Gentiles (“non-Jews”)	Same as conversion	Caesarea (Samaria)	Apostle Peter	No	Spoke in tongues and exalted God	Saved Jews	To validate (for saved Jews) God’s acceptance of Gentiles
19:1-7	Repentant Jews (Twelve disciples of John the Baptist)	Same as conversion	Ephesus (Asia)	Apostle Paul	Yes	Spoke in tongues and prophesied	Unsaved Jews (and Gentiles?)	To validate (for repentant Jews) the coming of the Spirit and Paul’s gospel message

APPLICATION:

- The process of making disciples involves both evangelism and teaching/shepherding.
- Disciple-making is for everyone in the Church, not just the “paid professionals”!
- How are you involved in making disciples, both locally and globally? How could you be involved?



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...and you shall be My witnesses ... even to the remotest part of the earth. – Acts 1:8 NASB

Globalization is a fashionable term these days! It has economic, political, cultural, ecological, and ideological dimensions. Roland Robertson of the University of Aberdeen defined globalization as “the compression of the world and the intensification of the consciousness of the world as a whole.” Incredible advancements in transportation and communication technologies have fueled this process in recent decades. In such an advanced, “global” society, the Church is often thought of as being “behind the times.” However, the Church was born to be global. Birthed into Greek culture and Roman rule, Church evangelists were able to travel the well-ordered roads of the Roman Empire and preach the Gospel using the common Greek language of their day. In just a few short years, the Church had expanded from Jerusalem throughout the entire Roman Empire. Even so, we are still Christ’s witnesses, and frontiers still exist on the edge of Christendom. So how are you helping your local church find a global audience for the good news of Jesus Christ?

- WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

Acts 15:36—19:20

- Paul’s Second Missionary Journey (15:36—18:22)
- Paul’s Third Missionary Journey (18:23—19:19)
- *Summary* (19:20)
- Paul’s Epistle(s): 1 and 2 Thessalonians; Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians

