



BS 6017 Acts and the Church
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Covenant Theological Seminary

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COMPLETED WORK IS TO BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT

1. A cover page which includes:
 - a. Name of course, author and instructor's name with title
 - b. Student's name, degree working toward, and the date completed
 - c. Facilitator's complete title/name the seminary's name and location (Greenville, NC)
2. Separate page & heading for each new section, capitalized at top center of that page SUMMARY, PRECIS, PAPER
3. All papers are to be typed with .5" margins using font & size: Calibri 11 pt. Summaries and book reports are to be double-spaced
4. Grading will be percentage based on questions, outlines, grammar, and theological and philosophical thought and execution of writing forms.

The file must be in Adobe PDF compatible format or it will be rejected. (5 MB is the maximum file size allowable.) A free PDF writer is available at www.cutepdfwriter.com. Once this file is installed on your PC, you simply Print the file and select CutePDF Writer as the "printer". You will be asked to name the file and select the location for the file. CutePDF Writer often precedes the file name with the name of the source software (i.e. Microsoft Word).

Suggested material for collegiate level writing:

1. *Writing and Research: A Guide for Theological Students*" (Kevin Gary Smith)
<https://a.co/2v3rKwu>
2. *MLA Handbook* (The Modern Language Association of America) <https://a.co/9FqkqDS>
3. *The On-Campus Writing Lab* (Purdue University)
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/graduate_writing/introduction_graduate_writing/

Course Summary

Welcome to Acts and the Church! This course is designed to look at the narrative of the book of Acts and a course map to the understanding of the church. Many outstanding academics have written extensively on Luke's historical account of the earliest New Testament church. Our author here, Ajith Fernando, references many of these fine theologians as a part of his formal Seminary training. At CTS as a disciple making culture, this work is best suited to tie together with academic rigor and passionate hands on application the message of Christ found within the book we call Acts.

It has often been said that the book of Acts might be more appropriately titled, The Acts of the Holy Spirit. It is through this lens in which we shall discern both the descriptive accounts and the prescriptive teachings of Jesus working through the Holy Spirit under the umbrella of The Father to build His kingdom.

Furthermore, how do we today, as Christ's disciples continue to follow His leading in our differing cultural contexts, just as we found in our study of His Word. "Acts as a Radical Challenge to Today's Church *CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS WHO* read Acts with an open mind will find themselves challenged with pointed applications by what happened in the early church." (Fernando P. 48)

Course: BS 6017 – Acts and the Church

Required Textbook:

The NIV Application Commentary: Acts (Ajith Fernando)

ISBN: 978-0-310-55876-7

Summary: "One of the attractions of this particular commentary on Acts is that it gives us repeated pictures of the church in action around the world by one who is intimately involved in the work of the church in the beautiful country of Sri Lanka. Ajith Fernando is a scholar of the Word. But he is also a frontline doer of the Word. As president of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka, he has lived his life in a way that mirrors many of the stories told of the early church in Acts. As Zondervan editor Jack Kuhatschek noted after reading Fernando's work on Acts...It gives the practical perspective of one who has lived through many of the items discussed in Acts."

General Editor's Preface

Recommend (but not required) Reading:

The Book of Acts: A Commentary (C. Peter Wagner, Ralph Winter)

ISBN: 978-1-4412-6891-4

Summary: "...what Wagner does with Acts could hardly have been done before; never has an internationally known missiologist turned his heart and mind to such a task. In Wagner's hands this unique book of the Bible is seen as the very hinge (the one full-blown biblical description) of a mighty move of God—a move that had been foreshadowed from the time of Abraham, but not fully unleashed until the events chronicled in Acts. From that point on, the rest of history would continue to reveal the kind of transitions that we read about in The Book of Acts."

Required Videos:

Book of Acts Summary: Part 1 (The Bible Project) <https://youtu.be/CGbNw855ksw?si=y0uL-YYJsDlgbYta>

Book of Acts Summary: Part 2 (The Bible Project) <https://youtu.be/Z-17KxpjL0Q?si=ijxGl6ME6IfcmJrk>

Acts: (N.T. Wright)

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL455179C7B06EBCB8&si=Cb9bHn_VKecwBTIR

Recommend Videos: (We recommend you watch or listen to the entire series but at minimum pick three)

The Church Series: (Expedition 44)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqaMlwzEBwbPOseSacHigBzPZltMlbvIP&si=irwVggsmnFG31IU9>

READ ARTICLES: go to expedition44.com and using the search box on the right side of the page type in "CHURCH"; choose at least three articles to read one of which should be the article entitled: "Ideas for a better scriptural "church" experience [ORGANIC]"

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:

- Read the main book and possibly the suggested book
- Watch all of the recommended videos considering what the book of acts suggests as the mission of the church compared to your experience of the modern day church. This paper might begin to compare and contrast what we were given in the book of acts compared to what church has become. How has the recipe given in the book of acts stayed the same and how has it changed over the last 2000 years.
- Compose opinion paper
Write a well composed 8 page paper making observations on how the modern day church differs from the book of Acts and begin to formulate your opinion on what a church should be.
- Create a goal calendar
Comparing any new insights from this course, along with personal leadings from your time with the Holy Spirit. Set up a goal list of ways your current ministry can become better aligned with God's Kingdom culture and less on human tradition. (Not graded)