



“Before the End, After The Beginning”

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (June 2, 2013)

LIVE EVENT via YouVersion app: <http://bible.us/e/xWX>.

Text: Acts 1:1-3

Introduction: Tonight we are going to look at little deeper into the context of the first few verses of this great book...THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. In **Colossians 4:14**, Paul calls Dr. Luke "*the beloved physician.*" We meet him for the first time in Troas where he joins Paul and Silas and Timothy on the second missionary journey (**Acts 16:10**, note the "we"). He joined the missionary team as a staff doctor and chronicled their journeys. One of most moving sentences Paul ever wrote is in his last letter (**II Timothy 4:11**), during his final imprisonment in Rome, when he says simply, "*Luke alone is with me.*" Let's open our Bibles, and study this great book.....

Discussion:

I. *The Writing of Luke*

Luke 1:3-4, Acts 1:1, Acts 23:26, Acts 26:25

II. *The Work & Teaching of Jesus*

Luke 1:1, Luke 24:51-53, Hebrews 10:12, John 19:30, I Corinthians 15:55

III. *The Work of Jesus Continued Through The Apostles*

Luke 9:26-27, 17:28-30, 18:8, 21:25-28, Acts 1:11, 3:19-21, Matthew 16:18, Acts 1:15-26

IV. *The Work of Jesus Continued Through Paul*

Romans 15:18-19, Luke 24:19, Acts 7:21-23, Colossians 3:17, James 1:22-25, I John 3:17-19

V. *The Work of Jesus Continues Through Us*

Acts 1:2, Luke 24:47, Acts 10:42, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, John 20:21-22,
Acts 2:4, Luke 1:15, 41, 67, 2:25-27, 4:14-18, 10:21, 11:13, Matthew 4:23-25, 10:1, 8, 20, 12:28, John 20:22,
Luke 24:45, Luke 24:52, Acts 1:3, John 21, Luke 24:39-40, 42-43, I Corinthians 15:1-4,
Luke 24:25-27, 45

VI. *The Work of Jesus Continues Until He Comes Again*

Acts 2:40-47, Acts 10:41, Ephesians 2:20, Ephesians 4:11-16

Conclusion: I heard a great lesson this week where the preacher said, "We should remember that the book of Acts ends with a comma, not a period." I like that. The book has not concluded. The work is not over. We were not here in the beginning, and we may not be here on earth when it comes to an end, but we sure do have influence in the middle of God's plan. You and I are adding to the kingdom. We are significant. When we read about the church, and their mission, we need to be ready to say, "Here am I, send me!" Are you ready to be a living witness? Have you shared your story?