

***“New Beginnings”***

*Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (February 9, 2014)*

Introduction: We often hear heart-breaking stories of lost children. We read the signs and glance at the pictures. We take notice of the Amber Alerts and Code Adams. God initiated a massive, three-phase search and rescue strategy to find his lost children. As we move into the book of Acts we see the beginning of the third phase as He builds His church. Let's study together...

Discussion:

***I. The Story is NOT Over***

A. The historical significance of Acts

**Luke 1:3-4, Acts 1:1, 1:8**

B. The spiritual significance of Acts

**Acts 1:1, Luke 24:51-53, Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4-5**

C. The physical significance of Acts

**I Corinthians 15:6, Luke 9:26-27, 17:28-30, 18:8, 21:25-28, Acts 1:11, 3:19-21**

***II. The Disciples Are NOT Finished***

A. The setting = Jerusalem

**Luke 24:47, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:15-26**

B. The stage = Pentecost

**Acts 2:1-4, Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:5-12, 2:14-36**

C. The significance = Salvation to ALL

**Acts 2:37-41, Romans 1:16, Titus 2:11, Hebrews 5:9, Jude 3**

***III. The Kingdom is NOT Empty***

A. God seeks to reclaim ALL the lost

**Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:8**

B. God seeks to reclaim ALL the glory

**Acts 2:42-27, Romans 16:16, Matthew 16:18-19**

C. God seeks to restore ALL the love

**John 3:16, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 5-7, Acts 2:46-47, John 14:15**

Conclusion: The book of Acts is not just a collection of “what happened next” events for a Christian history book. It is the book of new beginnings. So what does all that mean to you and me? We need to see ourselves as living instruments of Jesus Christ in our world! We are part of His body, the church and we have a purpose (**Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-16**). Are you in the kingdom of God? Have you been added to the church? Are you walking in Christ daily? Are you ready for a new beginning?