

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: CHRISTIAN MISSION

THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

I. CLASS INFORMATION:

First Class Period (Onsite): Thursday, March 14, 2019

6:00–8:00pm (Eastern Standard Time)

(Dinner available from 5:30pm, and technology clinic available from 5:00pm)

Ada Bible Church

East Paris Campus

1640 East Paris Ave, SE

Kentwood, MI 49546

Weekly Class Periods (Online): Thursdays, March 21–May 9, 2019

8:00–9:30pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Direct Link to Zoom Conference Call: <https://zoom.us/j/478155508>

Alternatively, you may call in at (646) 558 8656; ID 478 155 508

Class Landing Page: <https://portal.moody.edu/cgte/ada-bible-church>

Class Instructor from Moody Bible Institute:

Jonathan J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Global Theological Education and

Associate Professor of Bible and Theology, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

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Class Facilitator from Ada Bible Church:

Doug Redford, Pastor of On-Campus Groups and Men's Ministry

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II. DESCRIPTION:

The Apostle Paul is remembered as the greatest Christian missionary of the early church and perhaps of all time. In this class, we will map out the expansion of the early Christian movement as detailed in the Book of Acts. We will explore the missionary

strategy of Paul and consider how these principles of Christian mission may be applied today. The Book of Acts presents the biographical and missional framework for understanding the Pauline Epistles, and following this course, students will know the historical context for each of the Pauline Epistles. This course includes a project dedicated to the analysis and presentation of the missional principles of one of the ministries of Ada Bible Church.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ We will become familiar with the characters, places, and stories of the Book of Acts.
- ❖ We will be able to locate the historical context of each of the Pauline Epistles within the Book of Acts.
- ❖ Each of us will be able to articulate Paul's missionary strategy. We will each be able to answer the questions: "How did Paul practice Christian mission?" and "How can we apply these principles in the context of our churches today?"
- ❖ We will evaluate the missional principles at play in a particular Christian ministry in our own local churches.
- ❖ We will each learn about the missional priorities of a church ministry with which we were formally not acquainted.

IV. PROCEDURES:

The first class period will be conducted as a live event at Ada Bible Church at the East Paris Campus. The first class period will be two hours in length. This opening class period may be advertised as a public lecture or may serve as an outreach tool for the church into the broader community.

Subsequent class periods will be conducted as online meetings, each of which will be 90 minutes in length. The first 45 minutes of each of these subsequent class periods will be dedicated to new lecture material. Following a 10-minute break, the final 35 minutes of each of these class periods will be dedicated to discussing the course textbook.

V. TEXTBOOKS:

- ❖ "The Acts of the Apostles." *The Bible*. English Standard Version (Recommended).
- ❖ Pollock, John. *The Apostle: A Life of Paul*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2012.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date:	Place and Time:	Subject:	Readings and Assignments:
Thursday, March 14, 2019	Ada Bible Church, East Paris Campus, 6:00–8:00pm (EST)	The Book of Acts and the Epistles of Paul as Viewed from a Single Lens	
Thursday, March 21, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The Earliest Christian Community; the Parting of the Ways	Acts 1–5; <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 1–3 (pp. 15–38)
Thursday, March 28, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The Conversion of Paul and the Mission to the Gentiles	Acts 6–9; <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 10–12 (pp. 85–106)
Thursday, April 4, 2019	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday, April 11, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The First Missionary Journey of Paul	Acts 10–14; <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 15, 19 (pp. 121–126, 147–154)
Thursday, April 18, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The Second and Third Missionary Journeys of Paul	Acts 15–19; <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 23, 28 (175–182, 217– 228)
Thursday, April 25, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Paul’s Trial; Luke as a Historian	Acts 20–26; <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 27, 29 (pp. 207–216, 229–236)
Thursday, May 2, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	PRESENTATIONS	
Thursday, May 9, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Paul (and the Gospel) Arrive in Rome	Acts 27–28 <i>The Apostle</i> , chapters 33, 36 (pp. 265–274, 293–298)

VII. ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. *Attendance*. In the case that a student is not able to be present for a class period, we recommend that (1) the student notify the class facilitator by email concerning the absence and (2) the student review the video recording of the class period before the next class period.
- B. *Reading*. There are reading assignments for each of the seven class periods following the first class period. Students are expected to read the assigned sections of the textbook prior to the start of the class during which they will be discussed.
- C. *Class Discussion*. The teacher will circulate a study guide for the textbook. Students are to prepare in advance responses to the discussion questions posed by the study guide and to come prepared to present a position in 1–2 minutes for each question. After one student argues for his or her position, the rest of the members of class will have the opportunity to respond.
- D. *Presentation*. In groups of 2–5, students are to introduce one of the ministries of Ada Bible Church. Presentations should include (a) a statement of the operations and objectives of the ministry, and (b) an evaluation of the ways in which this ministry reflects the mission of the ancient church, as witnessed in the Acts of the Apostles.

VIII. REFERENCE:

Bruce, F. F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Schnabel, Eckhardt J. *Paul the Missionary: Realities, Strategies and Methods*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

Swindoll, Charles R. *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit*. Nashville: W. Publishing Group, 2002.

Wright, N. T. *Paul: A Biography*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2018.