

Acts 11-14 *The Transition of Gospel Ministry Ownership... to Paul and the Gentile Church. (Part Two)*

NOTES

Acts 10:44-11:18 *The Official Seal of Salvation – God grants repentance to the Gentiles!*

1. **The gift of the Holy Ghost was given to Gentiles that believed the Gospel. (10:44-45)**
 - ✓ Those in Cornelius' house simply needed to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to seal their redemption by grace through faith.
2. **The sign of "tongues" was for the unbelieving Jews present – Peter and the six. (10:46)**
 - ✓ Tongues are known languages foreign to the speaker and for unbelieving Jews.
 - ✓ Peter and the six Jewish eye-witnesses needed to know for sure the Gentiles were saved.
3. **Peter commanded them to be baptized who had already received the Holy Spirit. (10:47-48)**
 - ✓ For Gentiles, God established the pattern of baptism after receiving the Holy Ghost.
 - ✓ Peter obeyed Jesus' command to baptize all nations following repentance for salvation.
4. **The sign of "tongues" was for unbelieving Jews at Jerusalem to make Gentile transition official. (11:1-8)**
 - ✓ The unbelieving Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear Peter testify and the six witnesses.
 - ✓ The unbelieving Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear God confirmed His work with a sign.

Acts 11:19-30 *God moves to Antioch – home base for Gentile operations!*

1. **When the disciples and the Gospel arrived at Antioch (Syria), Gentiles heard preaching of the Lord Jesus, believed in Him, and repented (turned) unto the Lord. (11:19-21)**
 - ✓ While preaching to Jews, some scattered disciples from Cyprus/Cyrene spoke to Gentiles (Grecians).
 - ✓ A great number of Gentiles heard preaching on the Lord Jesus, and repented and believed.
2. **Barnabas was sent from Jerusalem to Antioch (early church HQ) to evaluate God's work. (11:22-24)**
 - ✓ Barnabas was ready and willing to be used by God wherever he was called upon to serve.
 - ✓ Barnabas was encouraged by the grace of God demonstrated in His church through Gentiles and exhorted the Gentile believers to cleave unto the Lord with purpose of heart.
3. **Barnabas went to Tarsus to bring Saul to Antioch and build a solid foundation for the new work – equipping Christ's primarily Gentile church to fulfill God's plans and purposes. (11:25-26)**
 - ✓ Barnabas knew the great plans that God had for Saul's life and connected him to God's work.
 - ✓ Barnabas and Saul spent a year laying a solid foundation and teaching many and because of what these Gentiles believers were found doing, they were called Christians first in Antioch.
4. **The Gentile disciples in Antioch determined to send relief – a sacrificial love offering – to their Jerusalem brethren. (11:27-30)**
 - ✓ God spoke through a man and the Holy Spirit of a missions giving opportunity and, as a result of their growing maturity in Christ, the disciples in Antioch determined to give to help.
 - ✓ Barnabas and Saul were chosen to fulfill the ministry task to the brethren in Jerusalem.

Acts 12:1-25 *Satan counters God moving – answered prayer and abased pride!*

1. **God was greatly moving in Antioch, and Satan moved to counter with murder. (12:1-2)**
 - ✓ Herod the king decided to vex certain of the church.
 - ✓ James the brother of John was martyred by beheading with the sword.

2. **Herod saw that James' death pleased the Jews and took Peter to do likewise. (12:3-4)**
 - ✓ Herod enjoyed the praise of men and therefore sought to please the Jews.
 - ✓ He took Peter and put him in prison intending to make a show of him after Easter.
3. **The faithful church prayed without ceasing unto God for him and God answered. (12:5-19)**
 - ✓ As a result of the great persecution and martyrdom, the church prayed fervently for Peter.
 - ✓ God answered their fervent prayers much to their surprise.
4. **Herod was glorified as a god, and God immediately abased him. (12:20-25)**
 - ✓ The people said it was the voice of a god, and not of a man.
 - ✓ God immediately took his life – he was eaten by worms.

Acts 13:1-12 Antioch sends 1st Missionaries – God moves and Satan counters!

1. **As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, God chose to send Saul and Barnabas out. (13:1-4)**
 - ✓ The Bible says they were ministering unto the Lord and fasting.
 - ✓ As a result of their total dependence on God, the Holy Spirit was able to lead the church.
2. **Saul and Barnabas were called to do the work of the Lord outside their local church. (13:2-4)**
 - ✓ As critical as it was for preaching and edification, the world needed to hear the word of God.
 - ✓ They were called to do the work of the Lord as missionaries – it was not a voluntary job.
3. **As they went, a man desired to hear the word of God, and the enemy opposed it. (13:5-12)**
 - ✓ On their journey, they preached the word of God starting in the synagogues of the Jews.
 - ✓ On their journey, they encountered someone who desired to hear the word of God.
 - ✓ As soon as a man desired to hear the word of God, immediately the enemy tried to stop it.

Acts 13:13-52 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – Next stop, Perga then Antioch in Pisidia!

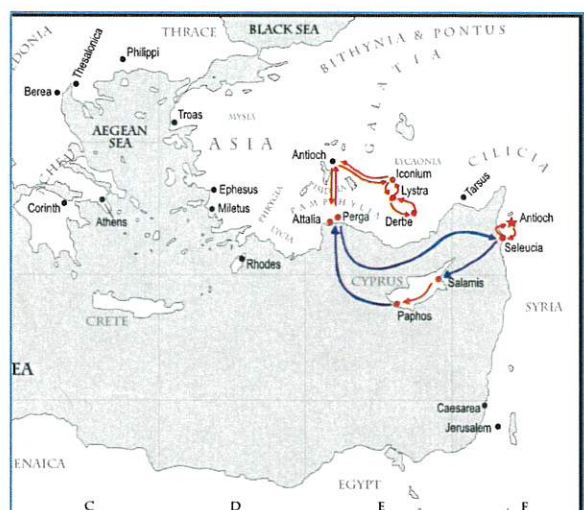
1. **As their manner was, Paul and his company began in the synagogues of the Jews. (13:13-41)**
 - ✓ Paul was given an opportunity to preach the history of Israel and the promise of Christ.
 - ✓ Paul's history included the time in Judges when Israel was ruled by their enemies.
 - ✓ Paul preached the fear of God, OT promises, the Law, Christ crucified, and the resurrection.
 - ✓ Paul warned them of unbelief and fulfilling the OT prophets by not believing in Christ.
2. **The Gentiles were stirred by the preaching and many Jews followed after them. (13:42-44)**
 - ✓ The Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next week.
 - ✓ Many of the Jews and proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, and they persuaded them.
 - ✓ The next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.
3. **The enemy counters God working again, and the Jews stir trouble for God's work. (13:45-52)**
 - ✓ The lost Jews were envious, and spoke against Paul's words, contradicting and blaspheming.
 - ✓ They said that the Jews judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life.
 - ✓ The Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, chief men and raised persecution.
4. **In the face of enemy attack, God's people were bold to speak, God's word was published and many Gentiles were saved. (13:45-52)**
 - ✓ The opposition caused Paul and Barnabas to gain boldness to speak the truth in love.
 - ✓ The Gentiles understood their privilege, were glad, glorified the word of God and many believed.
 - ✓ The word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.
 - ✓ As a result of persecution and expelled, the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 14:1-28 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – the Gospel is preached in Galatia!

1. In Iconium, powerful gospel preaching resulted in a great multitude that believed and much trouble was stirred up so that the multitude of the city was divided. (14:1-5)
 - ✓ Paul and Barnabas “so spake” that a great multitude of people repented and trusted Christ.
 - ✓ The unbelieving Jews “stirred up” persecution and made the Gentiles’ minds evil affected.
 - ✓ The city was divided over the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. In Lystra, powerful gospel preaching resulted in people lifting up Paul and Barnabas as gods and much trouble was stirred up so that Paul was stoned and left for dead. (14:6-20)
 - ✓ A miracle related to an impotent man at Lystra led people to want to worship them as gods.
 - ✓ Paul and Barnabas opposed the men-worship and preached repentance toward God.
 - ✓ The unbelieving Jews from former cities came to town to stir up more trouble.
 - ✓ Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city, and left for dead.
 - ✓ As the disciples stood round about him, Paul stood up and went back to the city to preach.
3. After preaching the gospel and teaching in Derbe, they returned to previously visited cities, edified believers, ordained elders in every church, then returned to Antioch. (14:21-28)
 - ✓ They returned to all of the cities previously visited to confirm and strengthen the believers.
 - ✓ They ordained elders in every church, prayed with fasting, and commended them to the Lord.
 - ✓ They preached the word of God in every city they went through.
 - ✓ They returned to Antioch, Syria to rehearse all that God had done and the open doors.

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?



Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from *Church History*: "Today's church wants to be raptured from responsibility."
"Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously'?"
- Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English evangelist, preacher, and author)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 10:44-11:18

The Official Seal of Salvation – God grants repentance to the Gentiles!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. The GIFT of the **Holy Ghost** was given to Gentiles that **repented** and **believed**. 10:44-45

- ✓ Those in Cornelius' house simply needed to **repent** and **believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ...
John 1:17; Romans 1:16; 6:17; 10:14-17; Colossians 1:4-6; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15; Titus 2:11
- ✓ The **gift** of the Holy Spirit was given to **seal their redemption** by grace through faith...
Ephesians 1:7-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Galatians 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:19; Romans 8:1-17

NOTE The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles **immediately** as they repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. There was nothing else they needed to do!! As a result of their faith, God chose to impute (credit) righteousness to them and give them a down payment (earnest) on their eternal inheritance. Although we have seen God give the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jews that repented and believed in Christ in different ways as He transitioned to the Gentiles in the book of Acts, His pattern for the Gentiles is now clear. God will confirm this pattern with many witnesses found in the church epistles from Paul (Apostle to the Gentiles). Gentiles in the church **age** receive ALL of the Holy Spirit immediately upon repentance and faith in Christ alone. If **any** church at **this time in history** teaches ANY OTHER DOCTRINE related to the Holy Spirit contrary to this sound doctrine, they are either deceivers or they have been deceived, and it is heresy!! Mark it down. We are not ashamed to speak the truth in love on these matters. If we did not and were to hide what the Bible clearly says, we would not be honest – and that is not what we do here in this church that God purchased with His own blood.

2. The SIGN of "tongues" was for the **unbelieving Jews** present – Peter and the six. 10:46

- ✓ Tongues are **known languages** foreign to the speaker and for **unbelieving Jews**...
1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22; Acts 2
- ✓ Peter and the **six Jewish eye-witnesses** needed to know for sure the Gentiles were **saved**...
Acts 11:15-17; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Hebrews 10:28

NOTE Beware of churches today that want to take this verse out of context and give it a false meaning!! Although the sign of tongues has been used to this point in Acts by saved Jews toward Jews that have not been saved, it

does not change the pattern for how God used the sign of tongues in the early church. Signs are for unbelieving Jews, and the sign of tongues is for **unbelieving** Jews. The fact that Gentiles actually spoke known languages foreign to them but not to the hearer (a bona fide miracle) has no bearing whatsoever on **their** salvation or **ours**! The **unbelieving** Jews in this passage are Peter and the six Jewish eye-witnesses! It is not difficult to understand this truth. You must simply compare Scripture with Scripture and believe the Bible. If **any** church at **this time in history** teaches ANY OTHER DOCTRINE related to Gentiles using or having the gift of tongues (which most often is just gibberish which nobody can understand) as evidence for salvation, it is contrary to sound doctrine. Again, they are either deceivers or have been deceived, and it is heresy!

3. Peter **commanded** them to be **baptized** who **ALREADY** received the Holy Spirit. 10:47-48

- ✓ For Gentiles, God **established the pattern** of baptism **after** receiving the Holy Ghost...
Acts 28:28; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21
- ✓ Peter obeyed **Jesus' command** to baptize all nations **following repentance** for salvation...
Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47-48

NOTE Water baptism for believers is one of two ordinances given to the church by Jesus Christ – the other being remembrance of His death and resurrection through Communion. For Gentiles who have repented and trusted Christ alone for salvation and have already received the gift of the Holy Ghost, it is our first act of obedience towards our Lord and Savior. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is to willingly and submissively yield to His Lordship and His government. He is the living Word of God. And, His written Word (the Holy Bible) tells us what to do and how to live as citizens of His heavenly kingdom. The proper response to hearing that Jesus Christ has **commanded** all those who have been saved, who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and who fear, obey and follow Him (also called “Christians” or little Christ’s) to submit to His command of water baptism is to **obey** Him. If you have truly repented and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have not obeyed your Lord in this area, you need to repent and determine the earliest possible time in which you will obey Him and make public your faith in Him.

4. The **SIGN** of “tongues” was for the **unbelieving Jews** at Jerusalem (Headquarters for the early Jewish church) – to make the transition to the Gentiles **official**. 11:1-18

- ✓ The **unbelieving** Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear **Peter testify** and the **six witnesses**...
Deuteronomy 19:15; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Hebrews 10:28
- ✓ The **unbelieving** Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear **God confirmed His work** with a **sign**...
1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22

NOTE The Holy Bible is not difficult to understand, but it is difficult to believe at times. For those who will take the time to READ and DELIGHT in the Holy Bible (Ps 1:1-6; 104:34; 119:11, 15, 97-99; Josh 1:8; 1 Tim 4:15)) and STUDY it (2 Tim 2:15), God will make the sometimes seemingly foggy or crooked path straight and clear to the truth. This passage represents the importance of context when studying the Bible. When in doubt, **KEEP READING!!!** Never take a verse of the Bible out of its context and give it a foreign meaning. By keeping Acts 10:44-48 in its proper near context, we were able to see that God was simply putting His official seal (or sign) of confirmation and approval on the transition to the Gentiles. It was so obvious to the Jews present at Jerusalem (as clearly shown in Acts 11:18), their mouths were stopped and they glorified God in confidence!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."
- C.T. Studd (1860-1931; English missionary and preacher)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 11:19-11:30

God moves to Antioch – home base for Gentile operations!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. When the disciples and the Gospel arrived at **ANTIOCH** (Syria), Gentiles **heard preaching** of the Lord Jesus, **believed** in Him and **repented** (turned) unto the Lord. 11:19-21

- ✓ While preaching to Jews, some of the scattered disciples from Cyprus and Cyrene spoke to Gentiles (Grecians)...

Acts 8:1-4; Rom 10:9-17; Matt 10:6; 27:32; John 7:35; Acts 9:29; 17:18; 1 Cor 1:23, 24; Eph 3:8

- ✓ A great number of Gentiles heard preaching on the Lord Jesus, and **repented and believed**...
Ezra 9:9; 8:18; Nehemiah 2:8, 18; Luke 1:66; Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7; 1 Thess 1:5, 9-10; Acts 9:35; 15:19; 26:18-20

NOTE We now see God's plan for the salvation of the Gentiles in clear view. God will send them His faithful disciples who – as commanded by Jesus – will preach and testify unto them the Lord Jesus (He is Lord of all, God in human flesh, coming to judge the world with His holy Law and His righteous justice, and the glorious Gospel and blessed hope of all nations – Jesus the Lamb and our Redeemer). Because God was doing the work, great numbers of Gentiles were turning to God from their idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thess 1:9-10)!!

2. Barnabas was **SENT** from **Jerusalem** (early Jewish church headquarters) to evaluate what God was doing **in Antioch** with the **Gentiles**. 11:22-24

- ✓ Barnabas was ready and willing to be used by God **wherever he was called** upon to serve...

Acts 4:36-37; 8:14; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:12; 9:7; Luke 12:48

- ✓ Barnabas was encouraged by **the grace of God** demonstrated in His church through Gentiles and exhorted the Gentile believers to cleave unto the Lord with purpose of heart...

Eph 2:8-9; Col 1:6; 2 Tim 1:4-5; Acts 13:43; 14:22; John 8:31-32; 15:4; 1 Thess 3:2-5; 2 Pet 3:17-18; 1 Jo 2:28; Ps 17:3; Dan 1:8; 2 Tim 3:10; Deut 10:20; 30:20; Josh 22:5; 23:8; Mt 16:24; 1 Cor 15:58

NOTE We must never be afraid to get out of our comfort zone for the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. In this passage, we see Barnabas being surrendered to God and His work and as a result, he was used by God to exhort and strengthen the new believers. But it does not end there. As a result of his faithfulness, he also received a blessing from God. He was encouraged as he saw firsthand the grace of God being demonstrated on these Gentile believers who were before strangers and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and

condemned criminals in God's eyes with no hope and without God in this world now adopted into the family of God and the fellowship of His glorious church through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a privilege we also have to be on the front lines for the glory of God and to be encouraged as we see Him transform lives from the inside out for His glory those who had broken His Law and blasphemed Him!!

3. Barnabas went to Tarsus to bring **SAUL to Antioch** and build a **solid foundation** for the new work – **equipping** Christ's **Gentile church** to fulfill God's plans and purposes. 11-25-26

- ✓ Barnabas knew the great plans that God had for Saul's life and **connected him** to God's work... Acts 9:11, 27, 30; 21:39
- ✓ Barnabas and Saul spent a year laying a solid **foundation** and **teaching many** and as a result of what these Gentile believers were found doing, they were called Christians first in Antioch... Acts 13:1-2; 20:13-38; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; Acts 16:28; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 3:15; 1 Peter 4:14

NOTE It is important that you understand what God was doing at this time in history. This primarily Gentile church in Antioch, Syria became home base for God's operations to the Gentiles. With the addition of Saul – Apostle to the Gentiles – God is now ready to take the Gospel all over Asia (the known world). Paul and his missionary teams will be sent out from and return to Antioch many times over the course of the next several years. The church in Antioch (the church of Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles) will receive copies of all of Paul's letters to churches and will be guided and aided by the Holy Spirit to hold fast to the words that will become God's Word preserved for the world – including English speaking people – the universal language of the last days.

4. The **Gentile** disciples **in Antioch** determined to send relief – a sacrificial **LOVE** offering – to their Jerusalem brethren. 11:27-30

- ✓ God spoke **through a man and the Holy Spirit** of a **missions giving opportunity** and, as a result of their growing maturity in Christ, the disciples in Antioch **determined to give ...** Ecclesiastes 11:1-2; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34; Romans 15:25-27; 2 Corinthians 9:1-2; Galatians 2:10; Acts 20:35; Ezra 2:69; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:2-4, 12-14; 1 Peter 4:9-11
- ✓ **Barnabas and Saul** were chosen to fulfill the ministry task to the brethren in Jerusalem... Acts 12:25; 14:23; 16:4; 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5

NOTE Jesus gave up His throne in heaven to become a man and pay the ultimate sacrifice for sin on Calvary's cross. Acts 20:35 says, Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. God's work and ministry is about giving and people. To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ is to **DAILY** deny ourselves and take up His cross and follow Christ (Luke 9:23). We must **willingly** allow God to use all of His resources that He has given to us – time, talents and treasures – on a **daily basis** for His glory. We must start measuring our days by whether we have invested our lives, our resources and the word of God into people – lost and saved. In 2014, we must put an end to our worldly agendas and start clearing space on our calendar for God and His work. It will require us to meet with people (lost and saved) on a daily and weekly with an open Bible and talk of the Lord Jesus. When that is not possible, it will require that we use the resources God has given us in such a way that the saved might be strengthened in God and the lost might hear the truth and be saved from wrath to come.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
- Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit (Apostle to the Gentiles)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 12:1-25 Satan counters God moving – answered prayer and abased pride!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. God was **greatly moving** in **Antioch**, and Satan moved to **COUNTER** with **murder**. 12:1-2

- ✓ Herod the king decided to **vex certain** of the church...

Matthew 10:17-18; 24:9; John 15:20; 16:2

- ✓ James the brother of John is **martyred** by **beheading** with the sword ...

Matthew 4:21; 10:2; Mark 3:17; 5:37; 9:1-2; 1 Kings 19:1, 10; Hebrews 11:37

NOTE As we have learned in Church History, Satan's pattern has always been to counter the work of God all through the Bible. Every time God is working, we see Satan coming against it. Do not miss this!! As a result of the incredible movement of God to Gentiles as far as Antioch, with the foundation being laid for the establishment of His new base of operations in the church in Antioch, with the preaching and teaching of Saul and Barnabas for a whole year, with the disciples being first called Christians in Antioch, the Devil had to do something to disrupt the momentum that God was gaining. Mark it down – this will always be the pattern of Satan throughout Church History. Also, make a note of something else very important. James was not just killed – he was beheaded with a sword. Throughout Church History, hundreds of thousands of Christians were martyred for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by getting their head cut off. It is not just murder. It is evil and wicked vengeance being motivated by Satan himself against the children of the Most High!!

2. Herod saw that James' death **pleased the Jews** and took **PETER** to do likewise. 12:3-4

- ✓ Herod enjoyed the **praise of men** and therefore **sought to please the Jews**...

John 12:43; Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Exodus 12:14-20; 13:3-7; Matthew 26:17

- ✓ He took Peter and **put him in prison** intending to **make a show of him after Easter**...

Acts 5:18; 8:3; Luke 21:12; 22:33; Proverbs 19:21; 27:1; Lamentations 3:37; Matthew 26:5

NOTE At this time, Herod's political ratings among the Jews that hated the church of God were climbing rapidly. Apparently, the murder of James was not done openly and although it pleased the Jews, Herod was taking measures to make a show of Peter's death. Remember that Peter was being used by God in such a way that the Devil must have wanted to spoil him good in the face of the God of heaven to prove that he was gaining a victory over our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. It did not look good for Peter and the church at this time in history. Was God going to allow this to happen? Who would be next? What should they do? Oh what the church must have been thinking! These were grave times, and grave times call for much and fervent prayer!!

3. The faithful church **PRAYED** *without ceasing unto God* for him and God **answered!** 12:5-19

- ✓ As a result of the **great persecution** and **martyrdom**, the church **prayed fervently** for Peter...
Isaiah 62:6, 7; Luke 18:1; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Ephesians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16
- ✓ God **answered** their fervent prayers **much to their surprise**...
James 5:16; Matthew 28:8; Luke 24:41

NOTE Oh how we need to hear this message from God today!! As a result of our ease in America and light persecution, we have forgotten that we have the privilege of coming before the throne of God with our prayers any time we so choose. What is it in your life that you need to pray more fervently to God for? Have you tried fervent prayer and tears? We need to stop thinking that the impossible things in our lives will never be remedied. If God be for us who can be against us? God cares more about the lost than we do? God cares more about our children than we do? If we seek His face earnestly and diligently, God will surely answer our prayers!! And, why should we be surprised when He does?!? We are children of the Most High! He has adopted us into His family and made us joint heirs with Christ! What is it that we must run to the prayer closet for today and spend more time in fervent prayer with our Father to seek answers of Him? Remember – if we pray according to His will – we know that He hears us and will answer. It will not always be as we think...

4. Herod was **glorified** as a **GOD**, and God **immediately** abased him. 12:20-25

- ✓ The people said it was the voice of a god, and not of a man...
John 3:19; 12:43; Joshua 7:19; Revelation 16:9
- ✓ God immediately took his life - he was eaten by worms...
Job 40:11; Ezekiel 21:26; Daniel 4:37

NOTE Beware when men are glorified and lifted up as gods - especially in the church of the living God!! Oh how easy it is for people to praise a man - especially a man who through "good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18) and make it easy for them to have pleasure in sin and this God-forsaken world. But, alas, God will not have any of it!! You better make a note of what God did in bringing this prideful man very low. One minute he was on top of the world and lifted up and loving it...and the next he was being eaten by worms. It is interesting to note that as a result of Herod's great humbling, the Word of God grew and multiplied! Every time God's holiness is demonstrated in church history, we see the same thing happen!! Contrary to man's wisdom at this time in history, the Biblical way to grow God's church is to magnify God and His Word and His Law and His holiness and His righteousness!! It is only when God is lifted up in this way that men and women will humble themselves. And, it is only then – when the people have a broken heart and contrite spirit – that the Lord is able to lead them to repentance and faith in Christ alone for salvation (Ps 34:18; 51:17)! How can men say that they are worshipping and pleasing God when they use smoke and light shows and have rock concerts and worldly entertainment that put the spotlight on men and talented professionals and NOT on God and His holy Word?!!

PRACTICES1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"What marvel the devil does not love field preaching! Neither do I; I love a commodious room, a soft cushion, a handsome pulpit. But where is my zeal, if I do not trample all these underfoot in order to save one more soul?" – John Wesley (1703-1791; Philadelphian Church Period preacher)*

Scriptures for Today: Acts 13:1-12 Antioch sends 1st Missionaries – *God moves and Satan counters!*

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. As they ***ministered to the Lord, and fasted***, God chose to **SEND** Saul and Barnabas out. 13:1-4

- ✓ The Bible says they were ***ministering unto the Lord and fasting...***
Acts 6:4; Deut 10:8; 1 Sam 2:11; Rom 15:16; Col 4:17; 2 Tim 2:11; Daniel 9:3; Matt 9:14,15; Luke 2:37; 1 Cor 7:5; 2 Cor 6:5; 11:27
- ✓ As a result of their ***total dependence*** on God, the ***Holy Spirit was able to lead the church...***
Acts 6:4; 8:26-29; 16:6,7; Matt 16:18; 2 Sam 22:3; Psalm 57:1; 59:9; 62:5-7; 91:2; 145:15; Jer 14:22; Isaiah 31:1-3; 30:1-3

NOTE It is important to focus on the actual words in the Holy Bible in this passage. This church in Antioch was growing and being greatly used of God as He moved His home base of operations to the Gentiles here and laid a strong foundation. With God moving and with the many priorities that were required to build and maintain God's church and work there, we find that the leaders were focused on the most important thing – God Himself and the glory that He so rightly deserves! Do not ever forget that He is the end goal! God is our great reward! Remember, this is His church that He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28)! We must never use the church as a carnal means to our happiness in this God-forsaken world. As an old preacher once said, the happiness of man is not the end goal of our being – it is the glorification of God!! At this time in history, churches and Christians (so-called) are so focused on being "happy" and "helpful" that they have either forgotten, or are ignorant of, or they just do not care about the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We must order our lives and our church in such a way that the Holy Spirit is able to lead us – so that we are always where He wants us to be when He wants us to be there doing what He wants us to do for His glory.

2. Saul and Barnabas were **CALLED** to do ***the work of the Lord*** outside their local church. 13:2-4

- ✓ As ***critical*** as it was for preaching and ***edification***, the world ***needed to hear*** the word of God...
Acts 9:15; 14:26; Romans 1:1; 10:1-17; 2 Tim 2:2; Titus 1:5; Matt 9:37-38; Luke 10:1-20; Mark 16:15
- ✓ They were ***called*** to do the ***work*** of the Lord as missionaries – it was ***not a voluntary job...***
Galatians 1:15-16; 2:8-9; Ephesians 3:1-10; 1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11-12; Heb 5:4; 2 Cor 5:17-21; 2 Tim 4:5

NOTE Oh how our thinking is wrong at times! What a pattern God clearly demonstrates to us in the Holy Bible! You mean to tell me that God actually chose to send the two most important leaders in the church away?!? Why would He do that?!? That doesn't make any sense to us when we are not thinking like God is thinking! God sent His Son to be a sacrifice for the WHOLE world! And, unless the world hears the truth of the Law and the Gospel and by faith repents and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation, they will perish for all eternity in God's prison called hell! That makes what God calls "the work" very important!! Pastors on the planet at this time in history are doing a pretty good job of convincing people that the goal of the church is to be as big as possible (it is really a kingdom on earth for many) so that we can "have a positive impact on the community and mankind and the planet" for good. If we were not Bible believers, we just might fall for that baloney (which is defined in the dictionary as foolish or deceptive talk; non-sense)!! Listen, we are all called to go outside the walls of the church and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15) before it is too late!! And, when they surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our God-given duty to put our own selfish interests and worldly pleasures aside and teach them the Bible so they can go out into the world and do the same!! Which "work", by the way, is called making disciples who do the work of an evangelist (2 Tim 4:5).

3. As they went, a man **desired** to HEAR the **word of God**, and the enemy **opposed it**. 13:5-12

- ✓ On their journey, they **preached the word of God** starting in the **synagogues** of the Jews...
Acts 13:14, 46; 14:1; 17:1-3, 17; 18:4; 19:8
- ✓ On their journey, they encountered someone who **desired to hear** the word of God...
John 6:44, 65; 3:3-7; Matt 11:25-27; 16:17; Eph 2:4-10; Php 1:29; Col 2:12; 2 Tim 2:25; Titus 3:3-5
- ✓ As soon as a man **desired to hear** the word of God, **immediately** the **enemy** tried to stop it...
Matt 13:4, 18-19; Mark 4:3-4, 13-15; Luke 8:5, 12

NOTE It is important to see this pattern in the Holy Bible – especially if we set our lives to fear God and obey His clear command to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). When Jesus taught the parable of the sower, He said that when the seed (which is the word of God) is sown, Satan comes IMMEDIATELY to devour (1 Pet 5:8) and take away the word that was sown in their hearts (Mark 4:14-15). If we really understood and believed that truth, it would change the way we pray, and live, and approach our evangelism efforts!! Beloved, we are in a spiritual war for the souls of men, women and children on this earth! Satan not only wants to devour your house, but he wants to keep all those that you are speaking truth to from hearing it!! He is also one of the motivating factors behind why churches have stopped preaching the holiness of God, and the judgment of God, and the righteousness of God's requirements for heaven. When the preaching of God's swift and righteous judgment is neglected in churches, men do not see a need to repent. Yet, God in His word has now commanded all men everywhere to repent BECAUSE there is a day coming in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ the Judge (Acts 17:30-31)! Remember, as the old preacher says, speaking of death and judgment and the righteous standard of God's Law is "hell's best kept secret." There is a reason why in the late 1800's and early 1900's churches stopped "using the law" as Paul instructed his disciple and pastor in training Timothy to do in 1 Tim 1:8-11. The devil hates this Bible truth because the Law is LIGHT and God uses it to shine fear into the hearts of men and to open the eyes of those that are blinded by the devil (2 Cor 4:4) and caught in his snare, taken captive by him at his will (2 Tim 2:26).

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ What do you need to do **today** to get right with **your Creator and Judge** – the Lord Jesus?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?
- ✓ What are you going to do **starting today** to better equip yourself for **the battle for the souls** of men, women and children on this earth until the Lord comes or take your last breath?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "No amount of scholastic attainment, of able and profound exposition of brilliant and stirring eloquence can atone for the absence of a deep impassioned sympathetic love for human souls."
 – David Brainerd (1718-1747; American missionary to the Native Indians, he died at the house of his friend Jonathan Edwards)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 13:13-52 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – Next stop, Perga then Antioch in Pisidia!

NOTES**PRINCIPLES**

1. As their **manner** was, Paul and his company **began in the synagogue** of the **JEW**s. 13:13-41

- ✓ Paul was given an **opportunity to preach** the history of Israel and **the promise of Christ**...
Acts 13:5; 15:38; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11; Acts 2:14-36; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8; Romans 10:1
- ✓ Paul's history **included** the time in Judges when Israel was **ruled by their enemies**...
1 Kings 6:1 (570 years vs. 480 years, 93); Judges 3:8 (8); 3:14 (18); 4:3 (20); 6:1 (7); 13:1 (40)
- ✓ Paul preached the **fear of God**, OT **promises**, the **Law**, **Christ crucified**, and the **resurrection**...
1 Cor 1:18, 21-25; Rom 4:23-25; 3:19-20; Jam 2:12; Gal 3:24; Mt 26:54-56; Lk 24:25-26, 44-46; Jn 19:28, 30; 36-37; Deut 18:15; Ps 22:1-31; 69:1-36; Isa 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1; 53:1-12; 40:9; 41:27; 52:7; 61:1; Jer 23:5; Ezek 34:23; Micah 5:2; Zech 6:12; 9:9; Malachi 3:1; 4:2; Ps 2:7, 27-31; 16:10; 49:9; Isa 55:3
- ✓ Paul **warned them of unbelief** and fulfilling OT prophets by **not believing in Christ**...
Proverbs 1:24-32; 5:12; Isaiah 5:25; 28:14-22; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 1 Peter 4:17; Luke 13:3, 5

NOTE Please do not ever think that God stopped loving Israel and desiring for them to be saved. Under the inspiration of God in Romans 10:1-3, Paul said that his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel was that they might be saved. He said they had a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. He said they were ignorant of God's righteousness and in trying to establish their own righteousness, they had not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. They thought they could keep the Law, not realizing that it was given to stop the mouth of their justification and leave them and the whole world guilty before God. Paul concluded in verse 4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2. The **Gentiles** were **stirred** by the **PREACHING** and many **Jews followed** after them. 13:42-44

- ✓ The **Gentiles** besought that **these words might be preached** to them the next week...
Acts 10:33; 28:28; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- ✓ Many of **the Jews and proselytes followed** Paul and Barnabas and they **persuaded** them...
Acts 11:23; 14:22; 17:34; 19:8-9; 28:23

- ✓ The next Sabbath day ***came almost the whole city*** together ***to hear the word of God...***
Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 11:10; 49:6; John 1:7; 6:44; 12:32; 1 Tim 2:6; Heb 2:9; 1 John 2:2; Rev 5:9

NOTE God has chosen preaching as the means by which men, women, boys and girls will be saved from the wrath to come. God forbid if we ever leave the preaching of God's precious Word for the wisdom and entertainment of men and this God-forsaken world!! For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God (1 Cor 1:18). For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor 1:21).

3. The ***enemy counters*** God working **AGAIN**, and the Jews ***stir trouble*** for God's work. 13:45-52

- ✓ The lost Jews were envious, and ***spoke against Paul's words***, contradicting and blaspheming...
Acts 5:17; 17:5; Num 11:29; Ecc 4:4; Mt 23:13; 27:18; Rom 1:29; 1 Cor 3:3; Gal 5:21; Jas 3:14-16
- ✓ They said that the Jews ***judged themselves unworthy*** of everlasting life...
Acts 7:51; Exodus 32:9-10; Deut 32:21; Mt 21:43; 22:6-10; Jn 1:11; Rom 10:19-21
- ✓ The Jews ***stirred up the*** devout and honourable ***women, chief men*** and ***raised*** persecution...
Acts 6:12; 14:2, 19; 17:13; 21:27; 1 Kings 21:25; Rom 10:2

NOTE Make a note of this pattern. Satan uses it all through the Bible – it will happen to our church, and you.

4. In the face of enemy attack, God's people were ***bold to speak***, God's word was ***published*** and ***many Gentiles*** were **SAVED**. 13:45-52

- ✓ The opposition caused Paul and Barnabas to gain ***boldness to speak the truth*** in love...
Acts 4:13, 29-31; Proverbs 28:1; Eph 6:19-20; Phil 1:14; Heb 11:34
- ✓ The Gentiles ***understood their privilege***, were glad, glorified the Word and ***many believed...***
Romans 9:30-33; 11:1, 7-25; Ephesians 3:1-13
- ✓ The ***word*** of the Lord was ***published*** throughout all the region...
Acts 6:7; 9:42; 12:24; 19:10, 26; Philippians 1:13-14
- ✓ As a result of the persecution and being expelled, the disciples were ***filled with joy***, and with ***the Holy Ghost ...***
Matt 5:11-12; 10:14; Mark 6:11; Luke 6:23, 35; 9:5; Acts 18:6

NOTE All through Church History, Bible believers have overcome insurmountable odds and risen to the occasion during great persecution and tribulation for the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. It is when we feel that times are difficult and impossible for us to do God's work that we must wax bold in our God and Go, Stand, and Speak. The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion (Prov 28:1). Remember the words of our Lord in Matt 5:11-12, Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you; and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience ***right now***.
 - ✓ Have you ***repented*** of your sins and ***put your faith*** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the ***Holy Spirit of God*** speak to you about through His ***Holy Bible***?
 - ✓ What ***one thing*** does God want you to ***do*** or ***repent of*** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "If I had my way, I would declare a moratorium on public preaching of 'the plan of salvation' in America for one to two years. Then I would call on everyone who has use of the airwaves and the pulpits to preach the holiness of God, the righteousness of God, and the Law of God until sinners would cry out, 'What must we do to be saved?' Then I would take them off in a corner and whisper the gospel to them. Don't use John 3:16. Such drastic action is needed because we have a gospel hardened generation of sinners by telling them how to be saved before they have any understanding why they need to be saved."

— **Paris Reidhead** (1919-1992; American missionary, preacher and writer; "*Ten Shekels and a Shirt*"; "*Getting Evangelicals Saved*")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 14:1-28 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – the Gospel is preached in Galatia!

NOTES**PRINCIPLES**

1. In Iconium, **powerful gospel preaching** resulted in **a great multitude** that **believed** and **much trouble** was **stirred up** so that **the multitude** of the city was **DIVIDED**. 14:1-5

- ✓ Paul and Barnabas "*so spake*" that **a great multitude** of people **repented** and trusted Christ... Acts 9:20; 13:14-41; 17:1, 2, 17; 18:4; 19:8
- ✓ The **unbelieving Jews** "*stirred up*" persecution and made the Gentiles' **minds evil affected** ... Acts 13:45, 50; 17:5, 13; 18:12; 21:27-30; Mark 15:10, 11; 1 Thessalonians 2:15, 16
- ✓ The city was **divided** over the Lord Jesus Christ... John 7:43; 9:16; 10:19; Luke 12:51; Matthew 10:34-36

NOTE Here in this passage, we find the bottom line impact of the preaching of the cross. As in Iconium, so we find in the whole world! The Bible says in John 7:43, "So there was **division** among the people because of him." In Matthew 10:34-40 Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, **but a sword**. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." The point of Jesus' message was simple – when the gospel comes to you, your eternity hangs in the balance. Your decision as to whether you will repent and surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ no matter the cost (family, relationships, career, pleasures, etc.) or reject Him (which includes a "no decision") and eternity in heaven in exchange for your best life now (80-90 years at best) and eternity in hell will either be your life's greatest blessing or curse.

2. In Lystra, **powerful gospel preaching** resulted in people **lifting up Paul and Barnabas as gods** and **much trouble** was **stirred up** so that Paul was **stoned** and **left for DEAD**. 14:6-20

- ✓ A miracle related to an **impotent man** at Lystra led people to want to **worship them as gods...**
Acts 3:2; 4:9; John 5:3-7; Acts 8:10; 12:22; 28:6; Acts 19:35
- ✓ Paul and Barnabas **opposed the men-worship** and **preached repentance toward God...**
Acts 10:25-26; Ezra 9:3-5; "Nicolaitanes" Revelation 2:6, 15; Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20; Heb 6:1
- ✓ The **unbelieving Jews** from former cities came to town to **stir up more trouble...**
Acts 13:45, 50; 17:5, 13; 18:12; 21:27-30; Mark 15:10, 11; 1 Thessalonians 2:15, 16
- ✓ Paul was **stoned, dragged** out of the city and **left for dead...**
Acts 7:58; 9:16; 2 Corinthians 4:10-12; 11:23-25; 2 Timothy 3:11; Hebrews 13:12-13;
- ✓ As the **disciples stood round about** him, **Paul stood up and went back** to the city to preach...
2 Corinthians 1:9-10; Revelation 11:7-12; "a certain disciple" Acts 16:1

NOTE It is a marvel how people are more likely to worship men than God! Paul and Barnabas opposed the people's quick work to lift them up as gods. We have examples in our Bible of men who chose to receive it and the catastrophic consequences that resulted. Instead, Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city and left for dead. What an exchange! When was the last time your faith for Christ cost you this level of persecution. That is why we really ought to re-evaluate how we feel when someone "rejects us" or rather the gospel when we declare it to the lost world. In reality, it is nothing. Paul's willingness to get back up and go back into that city resulted in at least one full-time preacher and untold thousands or more in the kingdom of God!!

3. After **preaching the gospel** and **teaching** in Derbe, they **RETURNED** to previously visited cities, **edified believers, ordained elders** in every church, then returned to **Antioch**. 14:21-28

- ✓ They **returned** to all of the cities previously visited to **confirm and strengthen** the believers...
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 13:52; 15:36
- ✓ They **ordained elders** in every church, prayed with fasting and commended them to the Lord...
Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 1:1; 3:1-16; Titus 1:5-9
- ✓ They **preached the word in every city** they went through...
Mark 16:15; Colossians 1:28-29; Acts 17:22-34; Ephesians 3:8; Philippians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 3:16
- ✓ They **returned to Antioch, Syria** to **rehearse all that God had done** and **the open doors...**
Acts 13:2; 15:4-6; 21:19-22; Romans 15:18; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 15:10; Acts 11:18; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3; Revelation 3:7, 8

NOTE Here we find God's vision and purpose for His church. Preach the gospel to every creature and every city. When people get saved, teach them the Bible so that they can properly fear and obey God. Then train men who will be able to quit their secular jobs and be ordained as pastors in every city. Then, take all the above and go preach the gospel to your city, your county, your country and the world! Let's go! This year, we should do a VBS! This year, we should start a Bible Institute! It is our time in church history! Why are we investing so much of God's resources in the world?? It is time to invest God's resources for eternal results!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
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