

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

August – Week 33

Completed

13 - Acts	14-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 - Acts	17-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 - Acts	20-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 - Acts	23-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 - Acts	26-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 - Psalms	1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 - Psalms	10-17	<input type="checkbox"/>

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: continues the account of Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey, as they entered Iconium. They were sent out on this journey by the Holy Spirit. He called them to this work (13:2-4); it was not something they decided to do. **How** did the people know this new message of the resurrection of Jesus was true? The Lord "was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands." **In** Acts we see the Holy Spirit set up church leadership. Other places in the New Testament give the requirements for leaders (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9), specifically mentioning the offices of elders/overseers and deacons. Elders were appointed (14:23). Paul calls the elders of Ephesus (20:17). He tells these elders to guard the flock, and that the Holy Spirit made them overseers to shepherd the church (20:28; also, 1 Pet. 5:1-4). Eph. 4:11-16 lists giftings for leaders. God holds the leaders accountable (Heb. 13:17), so pray for your leaders (Heb. 13:18). Any style of leadership can be abused by sin creeping into a fellowship. We need to guard against sin, walk close to Jesus, and be in His Word. **The** first "church council" was held in Jerusalem (chapter 15). Why? The problem: people from Judea were teaching, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved", so, the topic of "the requirements of the Law" in regard to the Gentile Churches was addressed. The leaders saw that the nations (Gentiles) were being saved by grace through faith in Jesus (15:11), and not by keeping the law. They, with the Holy Spirit ("good to the Holy Spirit and us"), came to a decision and wrote in a letter the requirements for the non-Jewish believers. Beware: Judaizers (see the "insight" definition below) are still among us today, saying Christians must worship on Saturday, not eat pork, keep the Jewish Feasts, etc. However, the letter (in Acts 15:23-29; 21:25) lists the requirements for the Gentile Churches - abstain from: things sacrificed to idols, eating blood, things strangled, and sexual immorality. Other Scriptures dealing with requirements of the Law in regards to the New Covenant: Mark 7:19 - Jesus declared all foods clean; Rom. 14 - not to judge one another regarding foods and days; Col. 2:16-17 - food, drink, days, holidays; 1 Cor. 7:18 - circumcision. When Paul circumcised Timothy (16:3), it was done so he could minister to all, without reproach, not to be saved. **Luke's** accounts were from interviews with the eye-witnesses (Luke 1:1-4), but in 16:11, he begins his eye-witness account as Paul's traveling companion! **A great** start in Psalm 1: the reminder that the way to blessings is to delight in the Law (instruction) of Yahweh and meditate on it day and night. We do this instead of participating in the things of wicked, sinners, or scoffers. And the last verse for the week: a promise of resurrection!

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

The word "Judaizer" (used above) comes from the Greek word, ἰουδαῖζω ("you-dah-ee'-dzoh") in Gal. 2:14, meaning, "to live like Jews", "to adopt Jewish customs and ritual law". Paul was saying Peter was compelling the Gentiles to live like Jews. **As** Paul admonished the Ephesian Elders (20:28), he referred to, "the church of God which He purchased with His own blood". A couple of English versions add "Son" ("blood of His own Son"). The Greek word for "His own" is an adjective, describing "what kind" of blood, just as "the tall man", the adjective "tall" describes the man: What kind of man? The tall one. So, what kind of blood? His own - a reference to the deity of Jesus! **Luke** often uses "litotes" (Acts 14:28; 15:2, 14:28, 19:23, etc.) "**Blessed**" (Ps. 1:1) is not "baruch" (בָּרַךְ), but "ashrei" (אַשְׁרֵי) as in the "happinesses of" the man delighting in the law of Yahweh and "meditating" ("mutters", "utters sounds") repeating it day and night.

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7). **God** is our shield, glory, and the One lifting our head (3:3). **He** puts gladness in our hearts and makes us dwell in safety (4:7-8). **His** name is majestic (8:1,9), **King** forever (11:16). **He** deals bountifully (13:6). **In** God's presence is fullness of joy, and at His right hand are pleasures forever (Psalms 16:11).