

Acts 13

v.1 *Eph 4:11-13 (NKJV) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

v.2 They ministered to the Lord- we must first go before Him and be pleasing unto Him, this is our priority

* They fasted- denied the things of the world to seek God's will and plan

* They prayed- sought earnestly for God's direction

* They are separated for the work- we all have been separated " *we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* "

Some are called to go, some are called to stay and provide, some are called to train, some are called to come alongside. As we have seen over and over, the book of Acts is not the story of a few select individuals but of a Body, a church that works together to fulfill our call and purpose.

* They laid hands on- identified with, supported became one with

- 1) Preaching of the Word of God;
- 2) Hearing of the Word of God;
- 3) Astonished at the teaching of the Word of God

V.4-5 They preached the Word of God They preached without no visible signs of fruit, sometimes we see fruit, sometimes we don't, but we can't change our focus because some don't receive, we minister to those that do receive

v.6-12 there will always be opposition to the preaching of God's Word

1 Tim. 4:1 through 1 Tim. 4:2 ¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron

v.6 sorcerer- two words in NT , one is pharmacia drugs, the other is magician -one who has or pretends to have special occultic powers- in the last days there will be false prophets, lying signs and wonders, deceiving doctrines- how do we guard against it? Be in the Word

- Bar- Jesus- son of Jesus

v.7 proconsul- an office of Roman system of government, oversaw civil and military matters in province, *an intelligent man*

v.8 why did he try to keep him from knowing the truth? It would affect his power base

v.9 Paul calls him son of the devil instead of son of Jesus

- full of deceit and fraud

- pervert the straight ways of the Lord- the Lord's way is not hard to understand but men try to pervert it because it suits their purpose

Sergius sought to hear the Word of God

Romans 10- faith comes by hearing

- He who has an ear to hear, let him hear

- if you will hear His voice, don't harden your hearts

- My sheep hear My voice

- Hear the Lord

- How do we hear? The Word

- some are not open to hear- as Isaiah says they keep on hearing but don't hear, they close their ears

v.11 a manifestation of the darkness that he was in already- blind man in a dark room, looking for a black cat that isn't there

v.12 **astonished at the teaching of the Word**- even with this sign, as this powerful magician is humbled, it is the Word that brings astonishment

- never underestimate the power of the Word of God as we let it work in our hearts.

Psalm 119- the Word will:

Keep us from iniquity* keeps us from sinning against the Lord* opens our eyes to see wondrous things* removes reproach and contempt* delights our heart* revives us* makes us understand God's ways* strengthens us when our heart is heavy* removes our lying ways* turns our eyes away from covetousness* gives us an

answer to those who reproach us* lets us walk in liberty* gives us a testimony* gives us a reason to hope* gives us life* comforts us* teaches us good judgment and knowledge* gives gladness to other believers when they see us* makes us wiser than our enemies* gives us more understanding than our teachers* gives us more understanding than be gained by long life* restrains our feet from evil* lights our path* rejoices our hearts* becomes our hiding place* keeps us safe* keeps iniquity from having dominion over us* redeems us from the oppression of mankind* delights us in times of trouble and anguish* gives us peace* delivers us

“I guess you know a lot about the Bible?”; “ I guess you believe the Bible?”

v.13 John Mark departs from them here, Paul is upset about this development we see later in *Acts 15:38-40*

v.14-16 you men who fear God- form of godliness

v.23 We need a Savior- the church is ineffective because we have taken the need for a savior out of our society by watering down sin and accountability
- people are upset about crime but don't want consequences for it

v.27 did not know Him even though He is preached every Sabbath- this applies to the church in the USA and can apply to us individually as well

v.42 they begged for the Word

v.43 persuaded them to continue in the grace of God

continuing in grace is as important as beginning in grace, we must never leave the basic principle of our relationship to God. Far too many only think of grace as the introduction to the Christian life, but God wants grace to remain the foundation of our life with Him

*Eph 2:4-10 (NKJV) 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Titus 2:11-14 (NKJV) 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

- Deny ungodliness
- Looks for Jesus return
- Purifies us
- Sets us apart as His own special people, zealous for good works
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Amazing Grace

Rom 5:1-2 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

v.45 why opposition? Could because they didn't want Gentiles saved

v.46 Israel rejected gospel but not totally

always a remnant

not final- they will look upon Him Whom they have pierced

v.48 appointed to eternal life- emphasis in on belief; Titus- salvation for all men, 2 Peter, not willing that any should perish