

Acts 14

As we look at the close of Paul's first missionary journey we are going to focus on three things

- 1) What Paul did
- 2) the various responses to what he did
- 3) the result in Paul's walk and ministry

v.1-2 poisoned their minds- embittered their souls against truth- now these were people in the religious community, upset that Paul preached and put so much emphasis on this narrow road of salvation

v.3 **Therefore they stayed there a long time-** Paul's boldness seems to come from the fact that there was opposition

what the Lord did- gave witness of the word of His grace Paul spoke boldly in the Lord- not just about the Lord but in the Lord- literally upon the Lord- with reliance upon Him

- How can we be sure we are in that place? Stay in and with the Word

As we study the book of Acts, there can be a tendency to focus on the signs and wonders but the real emphasis is on the Word of God

- 12:24 the **Word of God** grew and multiplied
- 13:5 they preached the **Word of God**
- 13:12 astonished at the **teaching of the Lord**
- 13:15 after the reading of the **Law and Prophets (Word of God)**
- 13:49 **Word of the Lord** spread
- granted signs and wonders to be done- signs and wonders that are of the

Lord will always bear witness to the Word

v.4 the gospel brings division- perhaps we are not bringing enough division today- seeker friendly stuff- don't make sinners uncomfortable

v.5 violent attempt to stop them

v.6 they leave and go someplace where God works mightily- what Satan means for evil, God turns to victory, all things work together for good for those that love the Lord

v.9 another response- As he preached - how did Paul know he had faith? His response the teaching

- **Rom. 10:17** ¹⁷So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **Heb. 11:1** ¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- **Hebrew 12:2** ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

- **Eph. 2:8-10** ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

v.10 leaped (single action) and walked (continuous action)- we cannot take even one step toward God without His assistance but when we do, we spring to life and then walk (continue) in that life

- the Gospel is a miracle working gospel- biggest miracle is changed lives

v.11 another response- people always want to put God's work in their own context rather than accept it for what it is

- Paul could have compromised the gospel for ecumenical purposes but didn't

- they say that they are men just like everyone else- people used of God are not some special class of people, they are just yielded vessels

Zeus or Jupiter is the god of the air who sends rain, thunder etc and Hermes or Mercury is the god of provision who supplies food. Paul points them in the right direction and shows them that God has placed a knowledge in their hearts of Himself.

v.19-20 some feel that Paul actually died and that this what he refers to

2 Cor 12:1-6 (NKJV) It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

v.21 we see them going back to all the places where they have been persecuted

v.22 result in Paul's life

- * strengthens the souls of the disciples
- * exhorts them to continue in faith
- * warns them of what lies ahead for them
- * appoints like minded men to serve
- tells Timothy to find like minded servant hearted men, to invest himself in those men

v.27 everyone shares in victories of the ministry- some go, some stay but all have been commended into His care and guidance

application

- 1) Are we in our sphere of influence doing what Paul did?
- 2) understand that there will be various responses to what we do
- 3) there will be a very real result in our walk and ministry