

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

BARNABAS AND SAUL APPOINTED

Act 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

PREACHING IN CYPRESS

Act 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Act 13:5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

Act 13:6 Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus,

Act 13:7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

Act 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Act 13:9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

Act 13:10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

Act 13:11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Act 13:12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

v. 1 Antioch becomes the center for the church! Note the **diverse** backgrounds that make up the church – **Barnabas**, a Jewish Cypriot; **Simeon** and **Lucius** from Africa; **Manaen** a friend (foster brother?) of Herod Antipas; and **Saul/Paul** a Jewish, Roman citizen, from Tarsus, but educated in Jerusalem. These were the prominent prophets and teachers in the church.

v. 2 The **primary purpose of the church-to minister to the Lord?** While they were praying and fasting the Holy Spirit said to separate Barnabas and Saul for the work that I have called them! Called by prophecy?

v. 3 **Directed by the Holy Spirit**, they fasted and they prayed and then they laid hands on them and sent them forth. **In reality it was the Holy Spirit directing the activities.**

v. 4 First stop was **Cyprus**, Barnabas' home country; then to **Pisidia**, near Paul's hometown area of Tarsus.

v. 5 Barnabas' nephew, John Mark accompanied them in their departure, but would later leave them and return home.

v 7 Note the order – *Barnabas and Saul*. Soon the order is reversed and from verse 43 on, it is "*Paul and Barnabas.*"

v 8 Notice the **resistance** by the **evil one**. The sly Elymas is trying to turn Sergius Paulus from the faith.

vs 9-10 **Also of importance** is the reference to Paul, **being filled with the Holy Spirit** – the reason for his boldness, outspokenness and power in condemning Elymas. Note his political "incorrect" address - **Full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil! You enemy of all righteousness! Won't you stop trying to pervert the ways of the Lord?**

vs. 11-12 Paul says you are going to be blind for a time – and the many goes blind! What an impact on Sergius! "*the proconsul believed...being astonished at the teaching of the Lord*" God's judgment was fitting – for those who put darkness for light and light for darkness, **forfeit the light** they originally had!

The church began in Jerusalem, and then spread to other cities, including Samaria, Damascus, Caesarea, and Antioch in Syria. At least forty different cities are named in Acts. From Antioch, Paul and his helpers carried the Gospel throughout the then-known world. In fact, the record given in Acts 13-28 is almost a review of ancient geography. About the year 56, the Apostle Paul was able to write, "*So that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ*" (*Rom 15:19*). What a record! In chapters 13&14, Dr. Luke described Paul's ministry in six different cities, beginning and ending at Antioch.

v. 2 - Note the importance of ministering to the Lord; of praying and fasting and being sensitive to the calling of the Holy Spirit! - **How likely are you right now to take an adventurous step of faith?**

v. 3 What are some characteristics of the Antioch "sending" church? The people were: Saved; Serving (5 mentioned, 2 spiritual gifts); Sensitive to the Holy Spirit; Being "sent" and "senders" Is there evidence in the text that Barnabas and Saul volunteered for missionary service?

v. 4 - It was the Holy Spirit directing the activities - the secret of the success of the early church. They were depending upon and looking to the Holy Spirit to guide and direct in all of the activities of the early church.

AT ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

Act 13:13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Act 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

Act 13:15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

Sermon Introduction- The Old Testament Preparation: (vs. 16-25)

Act 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

Act 13:17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.

Act 13:18 Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness.

Act 13:19 And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

Act 13:20 "After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

Act 13:21 And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

Act 13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'

Act 13:23 From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—

Act 13:24 after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Act 13:25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

Sermon Focus - The death and resurrection of Jesus (vs. 26-27):

Act 13:26 "Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

v 13. John Mark leaves them and returns home- an early setback to this journey. We are not told the reason – homesick? Malaria? (*cf. Gal. 4:13-15, 6:11*) “Paul and Barnabas”? Rough journey ahead? *Cf. Acts 15:38*

v 14 A demanding journey up over several ranges of mountains to the area called Galatia – Galatians was written to the churches in this same area.

v. 15 Paul is given the invitation to speak. Here we have **the longest recorded message of Paul in fullness. (vs. 17-41)**

v. 17 He starts out with their history, which was very important to the Jews. A reminder that their nation was chosen (*elkegomai*: select, selected for himself, make choice, choose) by God; brought forth by God. He delivered them from slavery in Egypt. God brought them out; He delivered them; preserved them; brought them into the land that He had promised to their father Abraham. So important to them. We are God's people. Our nation was conceived by God.

vs. 18-22 Delivered out of Egypt through the forty years of wilderness wandering; four hundred and fifty years of judges; forty years of the reign of Saul and now to **David, whom God called a man after His own heart.** An statement of God! We see David's sins and immediately recognize that David was far from perfect—an indication **that you don't have to be perfect to be a man after God's own heart! David had his faults.** He had his flaws, but e when he did sin and God spoke to him about his sin, he **was quick to repent of his sin.** David was **a man of praise; a man of worship;** a man after the heart of God! God said, he is a man after My heart. **This is the kind of man who is in harmony with the heart of God.** And thus God exalted David and God blessed him. As **He will every man who seeks the heart of God.**

And God said *who will do all My will.* - **again this is why he is man after God's heart.** He was wanting to do the will of God! He was always seeking the counsel and guidance of God.

v. 23 *From this man's seed,* He said of this man's seed, **singular,** God, as **promised, raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus--** In his later years, David thought, I need to build a house for God that will exceed anything that has ever been built because it will be for God. David told Nathan, who said, Go for it, but then the Lord spoke to Nathan, “I can't have David building Me a house. His hands are bloody. He's a man of war! So tell David that I can't allow him to build Me a house, but **I will do something much better for David.** Tell David, **I'll build him a house.** And from His seed will come the King that **will sit on the throne forever.**” Here Paul reminds them that God promised David that from his seed the Savior would come. And Paul is saying **the Savior did come.** He **identifies Him as Jesus.**

vs. 24-26 John said, I'm not the One, but the One is coming after me. Paul is declaring that it is to you that this word of salvation is sent.

John Mark did redeem himself and was eventually accepted and approved by Paul - 2Ti_4:11 It's been said that said that Mark “flickered in the crisis,” but the light did not completely go out. This is an encouragement to all of us.

So the witness of David and of course, God lets us know that David wasn't perfect to encourage us. To realize that we can still be after the heart of God, in worship and praise.

When you sin, how quick are you to repent of your sins?

Can God say of you, of me, that we are ones “who will do all My will?”

Act 13:27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

Act 13:28 And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.

Act 13:29 Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

Act 13:30 But God raised Him from the dead.

Act 13:31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. (Cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-4 – same four events: He died, was buried, was raised, was seen!)

Act 13:32 And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.

Act 13:33 God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'

Act 13:34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID.'

Act 13:35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.'

Act 13:36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;

Act 13:37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.

Sermon Conclusion – Choice between life and death! (vs.38-41)

Act 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

Act 13:39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Act 13:40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

Act 13:41 'BEHOLD, YOU DESPISERS, MARVEL AND PERISH! FOR I WORK A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL BY NO MEANS BELIEVE, THOUGH ONE WERE TO DECLARE IT TO YOU.'

vs. 27-30 Paul is sharing with them (*cf. 1 Cor. 15:3*), **how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**

Paul's preaching the gospel to these people. God's promise to David was fulfilled. **He's sent the Savior! He's Jesus!** But the Word of God spoke of the Messiah being put to death, suffering, despised, rejected and that happened. Those prophecies were fulfilled. All the way through **He is showing that God's purposes are being fulfilled in Jesus.** The prophecies are being fulfilled by Jesus. In comparing Paul's and Peter's sermons note these parallels: **The death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His burial and His resurrection.** And these are **all the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.** Paul is showing that **Jesus was the promised Messiah. But he gets to the heart of it.**

vs. 31-33 For forty days, Jesus was appearing to His disciples and groups. They became the witnesses of His resurrection. - And we declare the glad tidings.--God made the promise to our fathers. **He has fulfilled those same promises.** Again pointing back and showing how all of these promises were fulfilled in Jesus **in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: (Psalms 2:7) 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'** Paul uses some of the very same Scriptures that Peter used as prophetic of the resurrection. But they felt that when they came to the resurrection that it was **important to give them the Scriptural basis** for the hope of the resurrection.

vs. 34-37 So Paul goes on now to give the Scriptural basis. *Is. 55:3; Ps. 16:10, 49:9; Acts 2:27.* So the prophecy was not to David but it was to the seed of David. *"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."*

vs. 38-39 *He died for our sins according to the Scriptures!* So by Him is preached **to you forgiveness of sins**, but even more.

v. 39 - How glorious! **God has declared me innocent! Through Jesus Christ not only am I forgiven, I'm justified!** The slate has been wiped clean! My past sins are blotted out! Never, never to be brought up against me. The record is clean through Jesus Christ. I've been justified! The law of Moses could not justify anybody. So now, all your sins are forgiven! But God takes one step more. He **wipes the slate clean!** And **we have been justified through faith in Jesus Christ.** The law of Moses could not do that!

vs. 40-41 *"Beware therefore...."*, There is another prophecy that you **need to be careful about.** That's the prophecy of *Habakkuk 1:5.* God has done the work of redemption. God **has done the work** of providing the **forgiveness of sins and justification through Jesus Christ.** God has done the **work of salvation.** Nothing that we can do! **He has done it all through Jesus Christ!** Now beware lest God had done a work and **you don't believe it.** And **thus you cannot partake.** You do not receive because of the unbelief. Paul says, look, I'm declaring it unto you! **Beware of unbelief!**

Questions:

1. To whom did the Holy Spirit reveal His will? Who is the "they"?
2. Would you consider "ministering to the Lord as being the churches" most important thing?
3. What was it that the Holy Spirit revealed to the church?
v. 2 - Note the similarity of the somewhat vague call to that of Abram's call. In both cases, the call was clear, while the land and the work were not. So the response to God's call required an adventurous step of faith. **How likely are you right now to take an adventurous step of faith**
4. How was God's call disclosed? Inward? Outward?
5. Who commissioned the missionaries? The Holy Spirit? The church? It would seem they were sent by the Holy Spirit through the church.
6. It was the Holy Spirit directing the activities - the secret of the success of the early church. **How open are you to His direction?**
7. Do you understand Paul's direct approach to Gentiles as the great innovative development of this first missionary journey! **Can you see that as an encouragement for you to be a likeminded witness?**
8. Can you see Paul's longest sermon here as **being a helpful reference in your witnessing** and presenting the gospel?
9. Explain what is meant by, *"You are My Son, today I have begotten You!"* (v. 33) --This OT reference, *Psa. 2:7*, **does not refer to the birth of Christ; it refers to the resurrection of Christ.** *"Today have I begotten You"*—**not begotten in the virgin birth but actually in the resurrection from the dead**
10. What is included in the *"for I work a work in your days"* that was done by Jesus for you and for me?
11. When it's all said and done what **are two opposing words** that define man's eternal destination? (v.41)

v. 33 - **'YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'**

The word יָלִידְתִּי *yalidti*, "I have begotten," is here taken in the sense of manifesting, exhibiting, or declaring; and to this sense of it Paul (*Rom 1:3, Rom 1:4*) evidently alludes when speaking of "Jesus Christ, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, τοῦ οὐ ρισθῆεν τὸς Τί· οὐ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει, κατὰ Πνεῦμα ἀγιοσυνῆς, ἐξ ἀναστασεως νεκρῶν; and declared (exhibited or determined) to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness."

BLESSING AND CONFLICT AT ANTIOCH

Sermon Consequences – A mixed reaction (vs. 42-52)

Act 13:42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

Act 13:43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Act 13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

Act 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

Act 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

Act 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I HAVE SET YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE FOR SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.' "

Act 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Act 13:49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

Act 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

Act 13:51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

Act 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

v. 42 Preach the same sermon next Sunday. They wanted it preached again. **Good news! I love to hear it! Preach it again!**

v. 43-44 God has opened up your eyes **to His wonderful grace** of provision of salvation. By grace you are saved through faith that not of yourself, a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. God will work in you. So **continue in this grace of God.** How exciting! Just how the news spread. The buzz of the message of these men. The **whole city turned out to hear it.**

v. 45-46 They became very bold. Notice no longer Barnabas and Paul but now Paul and Barnabas. We've given you the message, but seeing you don't want to hear it. You count yourself **unworthy of the everlasting life that God** has promised through Jesus. We're going **to share with the Gentiles.**

v. 47 The message of the gospel is not for any ethnic group, exclusively. It's for the world. So turning now to the Gentiles that we might fulfill the prophecies that said we would be a light of the Gentiles. Salvation to the ends of the earth. *Cf. Is. 42:6; 49:6*

v. 48 An interesting verse. As many as had been appointed or ordained to eternal life believed. A divine mystery incomprehensible to our finite minds. The sovereignty of God. The election of God. As many as were appointed or ordained to eternal life. Who appointed or ordained them to eternal life? God. God has also ordained that we must exercise our capacity of choice that he has given to us. So the gospel is to whosoever will! Let him come! But the coming is up to you. You must come! You must exercise your power of choice in coming to Jesus Christ. So as many as had been appointed believed.

v. 49 In the area of Galatia and God's Word is now spreading

v. 50- 51 In the culture of that day, the Roman influence and the Grecian influence, women were held in very low esteem. So women were often drawn to the Jewish religion because it gave a much higher esteem to the position of a wife and a much greater esteem to marriage and to faithfulness to the marriage vows. The chief men of the city stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, to get out of here! Shaking off the dust from their feet they went to Iconium. *Cf. 2 Tim. 3:11; 2 Cor. 11:25*

v. 52 The disciples, those who believed, were **filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit!!** Those two are synonymous, great joy of the Holy Spirit.

v. 33 con't: This very rejected Person, I this day, **by raising Him from the dead, and placing Him at My right hand, giving to Him all power** in heaven and earth, **declare to be My Son, the beloved One in whom I am well pleased.** Therefore hear Him, believe on Him, and obey Him; for **there is no redemption but through His blood; no salvation but in His name; no resurrection unto eternal life but through His resurrection, ascension, and powerful intercession at my right hand.** *You are My Son;* this day have I declared and manifested You to be such. It was absolutely necessary to the salvation of men, and the credibility of the Gospel, that the supernatural origin of the humanity of Jesus Christ should be manifested and demonstrated. Hence we find the inspired writers taking pains to show that He was born of a woman, and of that woman by the sovereign power of the everlasting God. This vindicated the character of the blessed virgin, showed the human nature of Christ to be immaculate, and that, even in respect to this nature, He was every way qualified to be a proper atoning sacrifice and Mediator between God and man.

v. 48 gives us **the divine side of evangelism**, for God has His elect people (*Eph. 1:4*). The word translated appointed means **"enrolled,"** and **indicates that God's people have their names written in God's book** (*Luk. 10:20; Phi. 4:3*). But

v. 49 is the human side of evangelism: if we do not preach the Word, then fewer may believe and be saved. It takes both (see *2Th. 2:13-14* and *Rom. 10:13-15*).

v. 51 The unbelieving Jews were not going to sit back and let Paul and Barnabas take over. First, **they disputed with them**, and then brought legal action against them and **expelled them** from their borders. The missionaries were not discouraged: they shook off the dust of their feet against them (*Luk. 9:5; Luk. 10:11*) and went to the next town, **leaving behind them a group of joyful disciples.**

If you were expelled, can it be said that a group of joyful disciples would be left behind as a result of your life?