



Gateway To Life Bible Studies

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

LESSON 6

Please read Acts 13 and 14.

1. What 2 men were called by the Spirit for leadership? 13:2
2. How was Paul trained and equipped for this work? Acts 11:23-26; Galatians 1:18
3. What did the 'commissioning council' do before sending them out? Acts 13:3
4. Who sent them on their way? 13:4
5. How would you reconcile the last 2 answers? For instance? Did the Church send the missionaries? Or did the Holy Spirit send the missionaries? Could one do without the other? How might you explain this to someone not familiar with Church ministries or mission?
6. Who else was with Barnabas and Saul in their Cypriot mission? 13:5 and Acts 12:12
7. Describe the opposition that these missionaries faced in Cyprus? Acts 13:6-8

While this passage uses interchangeable names, it very interestingly shifts at this point from Saul to Paul. Paul is the Greek form of the Semitic name, Saul. Because of the correlation to the governor's name, and the fact that they are now in distinctly Greek-influenced territory, Paul changes the outward usage of his name as a matter of cultural identification with the people whom he is trying to reach with the gospel.

8. How did Paul handle the opposition? What was the end result? 13:9-12
9. What was John Mark's reaction to the trip? 13:13
10. What 2 classes did Paul see in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia? 13:16
11. Paul's sermon recounted the history of God's deliverance of the Jewish nation from the time of Moses through the reign of David. Paul especially identifies the line of God's promised Messiah through David (vs. 22). God's promise has been kept to Israel in providing a Saviour, Jesus (vs. 23) who died and rose again. If you were listening to Paul and then asked politely "so what" – what would Paul's answer have been? 13:39-41 (Hint: In the NASB there are 2 "therefore"s)
12. Verse 39 says that "and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses." This translation that uses the word "freed" is a translation from the Greek word **δικαίωω** [*pronounced* dik-ah-yo-o/]. It is where we get our word "justification." By using a Bible dictionary (If you don't have one you can find one online at: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/>) define "justification" in your own words. .
13. What is the result of justification Romans 5:1
14. What attracted the city to gather on the next Sabbath day? Acts 13:44
15. What was the reaction of the Jewish religious leaders? 13:45

Paul and Barnabas responded to the Jewish reaction with bold and straightforward words. Part of his rebuke was to accuse them of thinking that they judged themselves "unworthy of eternal life." We might interpret this to mean that these people didn't think they were good enough to be saved. However there is clarity when we read this translation that says, "But you rejected the message! This proves that you don't deserve eternal life."¹

16. How many Gentiles received eternal life 13:48

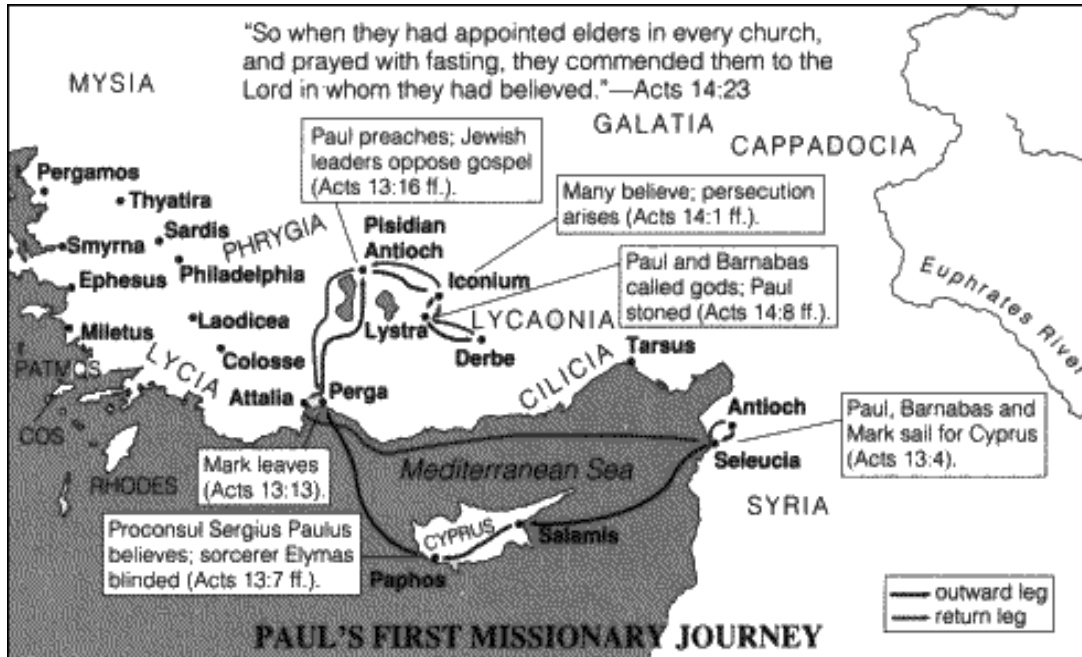
¹*The Contemporary English Version : With Apocrypha*. 1997, c1995 (electronic ed.) (Ac 13:46). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

17. What happened at Iconium? 14:1
18. How did the Apostles speak there? What phrase summarizes the Gospel? What accompanied the preaching of the Gospel 14:3
19. The Apostles moved on to Lystra as persecution increased. What was the condition of the man they found there? 14:8
20. What discernment was giving to Paul as he spoke? 14:9
21. What did the crowd think of the healing and how far did they carry that idea? 14:11,13
22. In your opinion, what does this say about something deep within the human heart?
23. What did the apostles do and why did they refuse the crowd in responding that way? 14:14-15
24. What was the surprising reaction to Paul by the crowds? 14:19 Other Jews came and incited the crowd to stone the apostles.
25. Paul left that scene and went to Derbe but returned to Iconium and Antioch. Why did he return there and how did they encourage the disciples? 14:22
26. In your opinion why would that message be an encouragement? Wouldn't it be just the opposite? .
27. What is in store for the Christian in this life? Romans 8:17

Dr. R.C. Sproul wrote: "How many of us have been stoned and left for dead because of the proclamation of our faith? How many of us have been burned at the stake? How many of us have been used as human torches to illumine the gardens of Nero? How many of us have been sentenced to the Circus Maximus as fodder for roaring lions or for the sport of gladiators? The blood of the martyrs has been the seed of the church. We sing in church about the faith of our fathers, which led them to dungeons, to death, and to all sorts of peril, but we don't live in a place like that. We have freedom of assembly in the United States [read: Canada]. Is it because suddenly our country is more open to the proclamation of the gospel, or is it because in a very real way the church militant has become the church impotent as we seek a safe way to experience our faith?"

28. What officers were appointed as permanent overseers of the spiritual affairs of the church?
Acts 14:23

29. Notice that they are now back where they started. Confirm 14:24-26.



30. What was striking about their report as they got back to Antioch? 14:27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. As you read through Acts 13-14, please note the things that were happening within the lives of believers that, in your opinion, were building up and maturing the group of believers in this time of history. The first one is given as an example:

| | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | There existed appointed officers in the church at Antioch who were engaged in spiritual exercises, sensitive to the Holy Spirit (cf: Eph 4:11ff) | 13:1-2 |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |
| 7. | | |
| 8. | | |

#2. As you read through Acts 13-14, please note the things that were happening outside, in and to the lives of unbelievers that, in your opinion, were contributing to the expansion of the church. The first one is given as an example:

| | | |
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| 1. | Barnabas and Saul proclaimed the word of God | 13:5; 13:14ff; 13:44, 49, 14:1; 14:6-7, 20 |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |
| 7. | | |
| 8. | | |

#3. Share with your group one area of personal growth that you see in Question #1 that you long to see expressed better in your life.

#4. Based upon the entire history recorded in Acts 13-14, what are some of the essential elements that contribute to the expansion of the Church?

#5. Please take time to pray for one another, for both personal aspirations as noted in #3 and for our Church that the elements you noted in #4 may be realized by God's grace and power.

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