

The Word of God Reveals Division

1. God Uses the Proclamation of His Word.

2. This Proclamation Necessarily Brings Division.

3. We Are All Called to Proclaim His Word.

Conclusion: As Christ's Word continues to spread, it not only encounters resistance, but also reveals great division. This shouldn't be avoided or used as an excuse for being jerks. We are called to proclaim His Word and trust Christ who uses it to accomplish His purposes—*calling His people, hardening His enemies, and magnifying His glory*. We are greatly blessed to join with the apostles in expressing our loyalty to Christ and trusting Him to accomplish His purposes through us.

“Grace means God moving Heaven and Earth to save sinners who could not lift a finger to save themselves.”

J.I. Packer

1 Peter 1: 3 – 9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Romans 10: 14 – 17

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

This week we return to our study of the book of Acts. As we pick up in the fourteenth chapter we read of the continuing expansion of Christ's Kingdom through the proclamation of His Word. How would the Lord have you speak of Him to those He has brought in your world?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 14:1-7; First Peter 1:3-9; Romans 10:14-17**. DISCUSS, How does God use the proclamation of His Word? What does His Word reveal? Why? How are you submitting to His lordship today? Be specific. PRAY "Sovereign Lord, thank You for how You use Your Word for Your purposes. Help us to trust You and delight in Your purposes!"

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please join in-person or on-line!*

Monday

READ **Acts 14:1-7; Zechariah 1:1-6; Psalm 139:1-24**. DISCUSS, What did God use to bring their fathers to repentance? How are you responding to the Word of God? Does it puff you up or bring you to repentance? Of what specifically have you repented in the past few days? Ask the Lord to search you and know your heart. MEDITATE on **Zechariah 1:6**. PRAY, "Jesus, as Your Kingdom expands according to Your proclamation, teach us to acknowledge You as the Sovereign over all things!"

Tuesday

READ **Acts 14:1-7; Romans 15:4-7**. DISCUSS, What does this passage list as the reason God has given us the Scriptures? For what purpose? How are you yielding to Him in this? MEDITATE on **Zechariah 1:6**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for dealing with us not according to what we deserve, but in mercy and grace. Teach us to extend that mercy to others for Your glory."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:1-7; Second Timothy 3:10-17**. DISCUSS, What is the teaching and sacred writings which Timothy knew? For what purpose God give them? What can they accomplish? Why? MEDITATE on **Zechariah 1:6**. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your precious Word. Enable us to hide it in our hearts and proclaim it far and wide.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 14:1-7; Second Peter 1:16-21; Psalm 119:1-8**. DISCUSS, How does God use His Word? What are you doing to respond to His Word? How does His Word light your path? MEDITATE on **Zechariah 1:6**. PRAY, “Jesus, You are the blameless One. You have led us in Your ways. Teach us to obey You by faith! Enable us to follow You and do as You command.”

Friday

READ **Acts 14:1-7; First Peter 1:3-9; Romans 10:14-17**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Zechariah 1:6**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 14:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Zechariah 1:6

“But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the Lord of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”