

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN A RELIGIOUS & IDOLATROUS WORLD **(Acts 14:1-20)**

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA (8-12)

III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (13-28)

A. The FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY of Paul & Barnabas (13-14)

1. The Gospel Preached to the Island of Cyprus (13:1-13)

2. The Gospel Preached to the Cities of Galatia (13:14-14:28)

a. Preaching the Gospel at Antioch of Pisidia (13:14-52)

- *What was Paul's gospel to the Galatians at Antioch of Pisidia?*
- *What phrase is repeated in 13:46, 48, and what does this imply about salvation? (John 6:68; 10:28-30)*
- *How should we, like Paul & Barnabas, be prepared to proclaim the gospel? (Acts 13:49-52)*

b. Preaching the Gospel at Religious Iconium (14:1-6)

1) *Salvation*: The church in Iconium began when a great multitude of Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue responded to Paul and Barnabas's gospel by _____ [*pisteuō*] it (v. 1), in contrast to other Jews who were _____ [*apeitheō*] and rejected it (v. 2). (John 3:36; 17:4-5; 19:8-9; 28:24)

2) *Opposition*: The unbelieving Jews _____ the rest of the Gentiles in Iconium _____ Paul and Barnabas and the young church. (v. 2)

- *How were Christians in early church history described by unbelievers and what can we learn from this? (Matt. 5:11-12; 10:24-25; Acts 19:9; 28:22; Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 4:12-13)*

3) *Determination*: Paul and Barnabas _____ continued to preach _____ to the lost and to the young church in Iconium (cf. 20:32), with the Lord _____ their message and ministry through miracles (Mark 16:20; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4). (v. 3 cf. Gal. 3:5)

- *What did Paul pray for in the context of evangelism? (Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:2-6)*

- 4) *Division*: The continued preaching of God's grace resulted in a _____, with part of the city siding with the message of grace. (v. 4; cf. Matt. 10:34-36; 12:30; 13:36-43; 25:32)
- 5) *Persecution*: Even the threat of _____ and _____ toward Paul and Barnabas was used for _____ as they fled to Lystra and Derbe where they preached the gospel and made more disciples. (vv. 5-7; cf. Acts 8:1-4; Phil. 1:12)

- *What should we remember about fear when witnessing? (Prov. 29:25; 1 Cor. 2:1-5)*
- *What prominent NT believer was from Lystra? (Acts 16:1-2)*

c. Preaching the Gospel at Idolatrous Lystra (14:7-20)

- 1) As Paul and Barnabas _____ the preaching of the gospel, the Lord bore witness again to their ministry and message by _____ and _____ healing a man who had never walked. (vv. 7-10)
- 2) The response of those in Lystra was to treat Paul and Barnabas as _____, consistent with their idolatrous culture (Gal. 4:8). (vv. 11-13)
- *What is idolatry & how should we respond to it? (Gen. 3:5; Col. 3:5; 1 Cor. 10:14; 1 John 5:20-21)*
 - *How prevalent was idolatry in the Greco-Roman world and what challenge did this pose for believers?*
 - *Who is behind all idolatry? (Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; 2 Chron. 11:15; Ps. 106:37; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Rev. 13)*
- 3) Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes as a Jewish expression of grief over blasphemy (Josh. 7:6; Matt. 26:65), and they protested that they were men of _____ (cf. James 5:17) and that those in Lystra should _____ from their useless idols to the _____, who is the Creator of all things (cf. Rom. 1:25). (vv. 14-17)
- *What does this say about Jesus Christ and our worship of Him versus other gods? (1 Cor. 8:4-6; Col. 1:18)*
- 4) Despite Paul's near-death experience by stoning (2 Cor. 11:25), he was _____ and persisted in preaching the gospel to the lost in Derbe and thereby served as a great example of _____ in the faith (14:22). (vv. 18-20)