

"The First Missionary Journey Continues"

Part 10

Acts 13:13-14:28

Introduction: Last week as we ended our study in Acts, we looked at how Israel was to be a light to the entire world namely to the Gentiles to manifest to them the love and the grace of God. Today this is our responsibility. We are called to be lights in a very dark world.

Philippians 2:14-16

¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

¹⁶ Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

This connects with our study in Zechariah and what we looked at in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 47:1, 8-9

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

⁸ Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

⁹ And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

This Millennial Temple that is literal and will exist in the Kingdom, is a picture of what we are to be today. We are the temple of God today and there should be a River of Life that flows from our lives into the lives of those around us. Just as the River will flow to desert and dead places so we have many connections with people who live in spiritually dry and

dead conditions. They need to see and drink from the River of Life. The bottom line is that we are God representatives while we are here. The world does not know Him but they can see His grace through us.

"The Persecution"

Part 2

Notice Acts 13:48a

When the Gentiles heard that God loved them and salvation was available to them, they glorified the Word of God. What good news this was for the Gentiles. Let us remember that in the eyes of many of the Jews they were looked at as being lower than dogs. They were without hope in the world.

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Notice Acts 13:48b

The end of this verse is something that the Calvinists hold very tightly to in order to drive home their belief that only the chosen can be saved. This verse tells us that those who were ordained/appointed to eternal life believed. Let me just say that this verse simply shows us the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. The verse does not say that those who were appointed to eternal life were saved but that they believed. These people had the responsibility to believe the Gospel in order to be saved and if they would not have believed they could not have been saved. When they believed then God saved them. The believer who goes to heaven when he or she dies will give all the glory to God because He is the One who saves us. To the sinner who dies in his sins and goes to hell, will never be able to blame God, because he will end up in hell because he would not believe. No one will ever be able to say they went to hell because God did not choose them. They will be able to say that they went to hell because of their choice not to believe.

John 3:18-19

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 5:40

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

These verses clearly show the responsibility of man. Then there are verses that show that God must be at work in a person's life in order for them to be saved.

John 6:44-45, 64-65

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

⁶⁴ But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

⁶⁵ And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

We know from a close look at God's Word that God does not choose certain people to be saved and certain people to be damned. God desires for ALL men everywhere to be saved.

Acts 17:30

³⁰ *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

1 Timothy 2:1-2, 4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

² *For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

⁴ *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

The point is that the Bible teaches the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man pertaining to salvation and there are just some spiritual Truths that we are no able to fully understand but some day we will.

Notice Acts 13:49

This verse speaks loudly against the believers in Antioch. We are told the Word of God was published throughout all the region. These people could not be silent. They had to tell others of the great news from God's Word. The results of their excitement then brought about a reaction from the Jews.

Notice Acts 13:50

The opposition which Paul and Barnabas encountered here was satanic. Satan did not want the Word of God to be published because he did not want to see people saved. He wants as many people as he can gather to rebel against God with the hopes of keeping the Kingdom of Jesus Christ from coming to the earth. Satan gathers people who he can use to attempt to destroy the nation of Israel. When Satan fell, he took one third of the angels to serve him in his kingdom and from the time that Adam failed until today Satan is doing all he can to keep people in the darkness.

Colossians 1:12-13

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Notice Acts 13:51-52

Shaking the dust off their feet was a symbolic way of saying, "We are done here. We have shared the Truth and you rejected it and now we are leaving." This is what Jesus commanded His disciples to do.

Luke 10:8-12

⁸ And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

⁹ And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

¹⁰ But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

¹¹ Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

¹² But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

Conclusion:

I want to close with the words of M R De Hann:

"When Paul and Barnabas were driven out of one city, they did not lose heart and quit. They didn't go back home, but just moved on to the next place. They meant business and nothing could deter them. How we need men of that caliber today, who will not be discouraged by persecution and suffering, but who are strengthened by it instead and go on more determined than ever. Paul was not a quitter, ready to resign when the going became rough. How few there are who can meet problems head on, and face up to opposition and persecution without yielding to the temptation to quit."