

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Dec 2017	Acts 13	The Gospel Message
2) 10 Dec	Acts 14	Misguided Worship
3) 17 Dec	Acts 15a	Available to ALL
4) 24 Dec	Luke 2	Christmas – The Promised One
5) 31 Dec	Acts 15b	Strengthened
6) 01 Jan 2018	Acts 16	A changed Family
7) 07 Jan	Acts 17	The Unknown Known
8) 14 Jan	Ps 139	Sanctity of Life – Value ALL
9) 21 Jan	Acts 18-19	Incomplete Picture
10) 28 Jan	Acts 20-21	Delivered
11) 04 Feb	Acts 22-25	The Testimony
12) 11 Feb	Acts 26-27	Answering Critics
13) 18 Feb	Acts 28	Always on Mission

INTRODUCTION

- Acts 13 records the 1st Missionary Journey by Paul and Barnabas
- We see how these early church leaders witnessed to enthusiastic & antagonistic crowds effectively
- In previous chapters in Acts Paul spoke in the following manner:
 - Paul IMMEDIATELY PROCLAIMED Jesus ACTS 9:20
 - Paul SPOKE AND CONFOUNDED the Jews 9:22
 - Paul SPOKE OUT BOLDLY in the name of Jesus 9:27-28
 - Paul TALKED AND ARGUED with the Jews 9:29
 - Paul & Barnabas TAUGHT large numbers 11:26
- Here in Chapter 13 we see Paul & Barnabas speaking this way:
 - They PROCLAIMED God's word to the Jews 13:5, 15
 - They SPOKE & URGED believers 13:43
 - They SPOKE OUT BOLDLY 13:46
- ...and the results of their unashamedly bold witness:
 - ♦ The whole city assembled to hear 13:33
 - ♦ Many, as had been appointed, received eternal life 13:48
 - ♦ Disciples were continually filled with joy & w/ the Spirit 13:52
- Paul & Barnabas are noted to have accomplished much for the kingdom of God, not for their praying (though, assuredly, they prayed frequently & fervently), and not for reading their Bible (though, they were quite familiar with the OT), and not by having a quiet demeanor, but by intentional and bold speaking to everyone.
- What will it take for us to be intentional and bold witnesses?
 - More Study | More Guilt | More Guts | More Cash

Passage	Comments
How Does God Convey His Specific Will to His Church and to His People TODAY?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In brief, God works providentially. He is not limited as He guides our steps through our pain and blessings, by opening & closing doors of opportunities, & thru our finances, work, health, relationships, & other venues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We prove God's will (Rom 12:2) by discerning how He is providentially working in our lives; otherwise we would be operating by facts instead of by faith • Based on the whole counsel of God, we have to admit God is working differently TODAY then during 1st Cent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We no longer have Apostles on the order of Peter's and Paul's, otherwise the Word of God can still grow ♦ Even before the Apostles died off, spiritual gifts and supernatural miracles stopped. By the time the book of Hebrews was written the Gifts of the Spirit and supernatural miracles and wonders were noted to be in past (aorist) tense Heb 2:3-4 • TODAY, God speaks to us through His Word [Heb 1:1-2] and through wise counsel from those who know God and His word [Col 1:9; James 3:17]; and through our conscience, which bears us witness [Rom 2:15], if it is a righteous conscience & not a weak (1Cor 8:12), defiled (Titus 1:15), evil (Heb 10:22), shipwrecked (1Tim 1:19), or a seared conscience (1Tim 4:2).
13:4-12	<p>Paul Performs an Unhealing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Paul was filled with the Spirit before he took action against Bar-Jesus, a Jewish false prophet & magician. • vv11-12. Paul performed an unhealing (made Bar-Jesus, a non-believer, blind for a time) & the proconsul believed & was "amazed" at the teaching of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What is amazing or astonishing about God's word that believers and non-believers make note of it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The simplicity of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The complexity of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The logic of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The truthfulness of it? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? ♦ Should we curse our opponents with misfortunes as Paul did? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King David did at times Ps 59:13 vs 35:13-14 • David even prayed for his opponents to become "blind as bats" Ps 69:23 (MSG) • Job did not pray for harm to come to his enemies, but he also wouldn't give them a job.. Job 30:1; 31:30 • We apparently have the biblical right to curse our enemies, but, like Paul, be sure to be first filled with the Holy Spirit to properly discern the situation, and remove any beam from our own eye before we challenge the sins of others Mat 7:5
Other passages on God's Amazing Word and Feats in Acts	<p>Acts 2:7 Unbelievers were amazed and astonished at hearing their mother tongues being spoken</p> <p>Acts 3:10 Unbelievers were filled with wonder and amazement at the crippled man being healed</p> <p>Acts 4:13 Rulers, elders, & scribes were amazed at Peter & John who being uneducated could draw such large crowds to hear a message</p> <p>Acts 5:24 Priests & Guards were perplexed how Apostles got out of jail</p> <p>Acts 8:13 Simon the Magician was constantly amazed at all the miracles</p> <p>Acts 9:21 People were amazed at Paul's conversion</p> <p>Acts 10:45 Jews were amazed at Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Acts 12:16 Believers were amazed at Peter's release from prison</p> <p>Acts 13:12 The Proconsul was amazed at the Gospel and he believed</p>

Passage	Comments
Acts 13:1-3	<p>The Holy Spirit Speaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Five men are noted for being prophets & teachers. Luke mentions Barnabas 1st and Saul/Paul 5th, probably because Barnabas was the most prominent at that time. In Chapter 14, we will see Barnabas & Paul (name is changed) being called apostles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What kind of title(s) do people know us by? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What's the diff between prophet, teacher, & apostle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prophet (at that time) – Foreteller & Forth-teller ▪ Teacher – Elders were "apt to teach" ...2Tim 2:24 ▪ Apostle (little "a") – Missionary (sent one) ▪ The 12 Apostles – Jesus' hand-picked leaders (Paul, not Mathias, replaced Judas as the 12th) • vv2-3. While "THEY" were ministering, the Holy Spirit said to them to set apart Barnabas and Saul. Note that Barnabas is mentioned once again before Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BUT who were THEY that the Holy Spirit talked to? Per verse 1, THEY were the prophets & teachers (Barnabas, Paul, Simeon or Niger, Lucius, and Manaen), and not the deacons or the whole church. ♦ Now, how did the Holy Spirit objectively convey His specific will to them? <input type="checkbox"/> Verbally? <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> One at a time? <input type="checkbox"/> All at once? <input type="checkbox"/> Other means?



"We need someone to get run over by a car so we can all exercise our gifts."

Passage	Comments
13:13	<p>Mark Deserts the Ship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Mark possibly got spooked by running into Bar-Jesus, the magician; or he got bummed by being the errand boy and luggage carrier for Barnabas & Paul; or, since he possibly was a "spoiled rich kid" he just got tired roughing it and got homesick – so, he left unexpectedly (recall that Mark's home was big enough to host large gatherings of Christians, so his parents were probably quite wealthy – Acts 12:12) His immaturity at this junction left some bitterness for quite some time, especially with Paul..... Acts 15:37-39 Fortunately, John Mark eventually grew up and became a trusted partner to both Peter and Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter called him "my son" 1Peter 5:13 Paul conveyed Mark was "useful" to him... 2Tim 4:11 Mark's biggest claim to fame, however, was that he wrote the first Gospel account of Jesus (possibly gleaned from sitting under Peter's tutelage) <p>Lessons to be learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mistakes in life do not need to hamper our "mark" in life, or "mark" us as failures if, like Peter & Mark, we grow up and "forget" what lies behind us and press forward to what better things lie ahead..... Phil 3:13 Before throwing young people (in age or in spiritual maturity) into a tough ministry they should first be proven or tested to some degree..... 1Tim 3:10 (How can we prove someone's mettle?)
13:14-41	<p>Paul Gives a History Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v14. On the Sabbath Day Paul & Barnabas went into the Synagogue, not to quarrel, but to share the Gospel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it appropriate for us to go to other houses of worship to share the Gospel? E.g., Hindus, Mormons, Muslims, JW's, Catholics, etc.? Would this be respectful or not? Or would it be more appropriate for a saved Catholic to witness to other Catholics within their sanctum? v26. Paul says the Gospel message was sent to those who fear God, to those of Abraham's family, and to the "brethren" or other Jewish believers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvinists jump on this passage and say, "See, the Gospel is only for the elect." True, the Gospel saves the elect, but as Jesus said to the non-elect Jews of his day, "I am willing to give you eternal life (IOW, change you from non-elect to Elect) if only you were willing to come to me" (John 5:34, 40). So, the Gospel was and is available to ALL, but it is only "efficacious" for the Elect – those who willingly choose to believe. <p>Principle of Considering the Whole Counsel of God.</p> <p>Luke also records in Acts 5:31 that our Savior's purpose was to "grant repentant to Israel" – BUT we know from the whole counsel of God that His repentance is also for us Gentiles. So, Paul's seemingly restrictive statement in vs26 that the Gospel was only meant for some, is not as restrictive as Calvinists make it out to be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv38-39. Through Christ, forgiveness is available to EVERYONE who believes, and this forgiveness frees believers from all things (sin) that would bind them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should a murderer be allowed to go free after getting saved? Should an adulterer who fathered children out of wedlock be freed from paying child support? Rhetorical answer to such questions is NO. So, is this freedom more intangible or spiritual in nature? If that is all it is, actually, that would be sufficient enough BUT, there are tangible, physical, earthly impacts to receiving God's forgiveness. Feelings of remorse and regret may be present but we are free from eternal guilt, which brings health to the body & mind..... Ps 38:3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former thieves, addicts, liars, gluttons, etc., can testify of being freed to enjoy new things as they replaced sinful habits with godly ones..... Eph 4:28

Passage	Comments
13:42-44	<p>People are Hungry to Hear More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v42. For the first time Luke mentions Paul before Barnabas, possibly indicating Paul has assumed the lead at this time. BUT, he flips their names again in chapters 14 & 15, so this may be nothing more than Luke's literary/writing style. v42. What resonated with their listeners that their audience "begged" to hear more the next Sabbath? <input type="checkbox"/> Good Music? <input type="checkbox"/> Good nursery/children's program? <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Restrooms? <input type="checkbox"/> Good Entertainment? or <input type="checkbox"/> Good Preaching/Teaching? What if a congregation is no longer "begging to hear more"? Is it a sign to change something? Or maintain status quo? What if a congregation prefers to hear pleasant words or to be entertained? Is it a sign of concern? How do we stand up? v43. Notice that it was the serious God-fearing believers who hung around for more quality time with Paul & Barnabas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches must invest in continual feeding of the serious Christians and not just the curious listeners & visitors If churches just preach a salvation message every Sunday they are starving their flock. How do we "urge" our flock to grow? <input type="checkbox"/> Preach topically <input type="checkbox"/> Preach/Teach Expository <input type="checkbox"/> Do more teaching, less preaching <input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas?
13:45-49	<p>Paul Moves to Plan B → Take Gospel to the Gentiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv45-47. Principle of Knowing When to Leave. Is it OK for saved Catholics, saved Jews, saved Mormons, saved JW's to stay within their church/synagogue to continue witnessing? Maybe – At least for a time. Recall that an angel of the Lord told the Apostles to "speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life" (Acts 5:19-21), and Paul/Saul had letters from the High Priest to arrest any and all believers proselytizing in the synagogues in Damascus..... Acts 9:1-2 v46. Paul eventually realized he had to move away from the religion he grew up in – his comfort zone – when an excessive number of deaf ears would not open v48. "...as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed." What a great passage on God's love & sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gospel is available to all (John 3:16), it is efficacious to those who willingly believe (John 5:40; Eph 1:13), and He knows who would believe before time began (Eph 1:4) without showing partiality (Rom 2:11), which means no one will have an excuse (Rom 1:20)..... WOW
13:50-51	<p>Mob Manipulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, people are easily manipulated by malcontents inside and outside the church. How can we guard against it? <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to gripes & complaints? <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate the issues? BUT, mobs can be used in a godly fashion. Nehemiah set up a great assembly against some malcontents Neh 5:16-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More on MOBS later – The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly
13:52	<p>Spiritual Joy Comes with Living out the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are we exhibiting being filled with Joy & with the Holy Spirit?

NEXT WEEK: Acts 14. Paul and Barnabas continued to speak "in such a manner" that large numbers believed. WOW! Also, it was qualified church leaders (elders) who selected other church leaders from within a local congregation. They picked a local boy. No resume' shoot-outs. WOW!



Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. [Acts 13:38](#) niv