

The Gospel Comes to Europe

March 24, 2024 | Acts 16:6-40

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Big Idea: The Lord's grace causes the gospel to advance through His disciples.

I. Grace Guides (vv. 6-13)

God gives guidance as we actively obey His revealed will.

[The Apostles] never reduced the Spirit's activity in their lives to some formula. They grounded themselves in the Word, obeyed Jesus' general commands, and looked to the Spirit to lead them – watching for him, but assuming he was leading even if they couldn't see or feel him. – **J. D. Greear**

Proverbs 19:21 | Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

II. Grace Opens Hearts (vv. 14-15)

“There is an influence of the Spirit required to prepare the minds of men for the reception of the truth. The truth is compared to light, which is absolutely necessary to vision, but, if the eye be closed or blind, it must be opened or restored before the light can produce its proper impression. The psalmist therefore prays, ‘Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law’ (Ps. 119:18).” –**Charles Hodge**

“No one can have faith in the gospel by his own strength, but only by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and not because he has faith beforehand. Therefore, on hearing the promises of the gospel, let us despair concerning the power of the flesh, but let us pray to the Lord to open our heart, to give us the gift of the Spirit, to put belief in our heart and to fill us with the work of righteousness.” –**John Calvin**

III. Grace Gives Grit (vv. 16-28)

1. Daily Faithfulness (vv. 16-18a)
2. Guard the Truth (v. 18)
3. Steadfast Hope Amidst Adversity (vv. 19-25)

Romans 5:3-5 | 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

4. Readiness (vv. 26-28)

IV. Grace Rescues (vv. 29-40)

Benediction

Ephesians 1:7-9 | 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.