

Division, Hostility, Purpose, and Belonging

March 3, 2024 | Acts 14:1-28

Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

Big Idea: Jesus completes His great work through ordinary people.

We are ordinary people with:

I. Divine Presence

Matthew 28:20 | And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

II. A Singular Message of Good News

1. Message of grace
2. Message that divides
3. Message that is matchless

1 Peter 1:18-19 | 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

III. Unflinching Purpose

To make disciples who remain strong through trial by uncommon belonging in a local church.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 | 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Galatians 6:17 | I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

Philippians 1:28-30 | 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-7 | 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels....

Benediction

1 Peter 1:18-19 | 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.