

THRIVING IN THE FACE OF EVIL – Acts 13:4-12

One world government - Revelation 13:3,4,7,8,17.

(Ephesians 5:15, 16) See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

(Matthew 16:18b) "...and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

The only message of the church is the "gospel!" We must not be "silent!

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me." - Martin Niemoller

Silence is surrender to the culture, rather than Christ! Cyprus; his name was Sergius Paulus.

(Isaiah 55:2) Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

(v.8) (Matthew 10:34) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."

"Elymas" (e-lee-mas) - Arabic word for Magus: magi.

(Ephesians 5:13-14) But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

(v.9-11) (Isaiah 59:19b) When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

Spirit: *ruwach* – wind breath; a strong wind.

Standard or Banner - implies; lifted to oppose our foe, causing them to flee.

(James 4:7) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

To be filled is to be *spiritually* killed! (1 Corinthians 15:31b) "...I die daily."

(2 Corinthians 4:10-12) “...always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.”

“How can God be our strength when we will not let Him be our standard? If culture sets our standard, we cannot expect God to be our strength!” – Pastor Steven Furtick Paul, with Christ as his “standard” filled with the Holy Spirit, “stood fast!” (Read: v.9-11).

Emboldened three-fold response to evil:

1) Paul looked “intently” (directly) at Bar-Jesus. (v.9b).

2) Paul calls it as God revealed it. (v.10).

3) Paul places the matter in God’s hands. (v.11). Romans 12:14-21.

(v.12) When we stand, others can stand. (Romans 16:20a) And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

CONCLUSION: We do not fight for victory, but from a position of victory!

(2 Thessalonians 3:3) But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

(1 John 4:4) You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.