

## I. Text:

**Acts 14:1-7** In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. 2 But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. 3 Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. 4 But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5 And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, 6 they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Overall, what do you think is key/main verse in this passage...as certainly Luke is describing/reporting what happened to Paul and Barnabas in Iconium, but what does God was the modern church to learn or do from it?

## II. Introduction: Lord Jesus, help me THIS DAY prayers:

- A. **My relationship with God:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me live THIS DAY for you, for your will and glory. Show me, lead me, and guide me to be all in and all for you – to be successful and pleasing in your eyes alone – that you would have 1<sup>st</sup> place/supremacy in everything I think, do, and say today.
- B. **My relationship with my spouse:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me love, cherish, and nourish my wife THIS DAY as you love the church. Empower me to love her with agape/divine love that is selfless, sacrificial and unconditional.
- C. **My relationship with my children:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me love, teach, and model true authentic and Biblical Christianity to my children THIS DAY. Empower me to evangelize and disciple them with excellence THIS DAY. My heart cry is for all of them to be saved/to come safely into your coming Kingdom, for all of them to marry in the faith and have strong Biblical marriages, and for all of them to raise godly children so there is legacy of faith in my line until you rapture us home.
- D. **My relationship with believers:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me to be a good Pastor/Shepherd, and Elder/Overseer, and Preacher/teacher to my church THIS DAY. Empower me to set the example for the believers in speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Protect me from the evil one who seeks to discourage, distract, and destroy me, my family, and your church.
- E. **My relationship with unbelievers:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me see and love all people the way you love them – wanting none to perish, desiring all to repent and be saved by the knowledge of the truth/gospel, and urgently going with the gospel to make disciples of all nations seeking to make the most of every opportunity.
- F. **My my desire to be man of God (prayers for myself):** Dear Lord Jesus, help me be a humble, joyful, thankful, gracious, and righteous man THIS day. Empower me by your Holy Spirit to be truthful, loving, powerful, fruitful, and faithful THIS DAY. Guide me, Make me, and enable me to the worshipper, husband, father, Pastor/churchman, and evangelist that you command in your Word. Guard me from selfishness, pride, deception, self-destruction, and all sin. Keep sin and all worthless things and pursuits far away from me. Make me the man of God you want me to be by your Word, your Spirit/prayer, and Your people/the Church, and your mission/evangelism – the Great Commission.

What are some of your prayers/heart cries to God lately? How are you pursuing and prioritizing prayer so that you are "devoted to prayer" (Col. 4:2), praying without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17), and regularly pouring your heart out to God (Ps. 62:8) As we talk about the pushback from Satan when we advance in evangelism – how are you specifically praying and putting on the full armor of God according to Ephesians 6?

## III. Review of the Blessed Gospel – are you praying for the lost regularly and earnestly? – Specifically, 5 dangerous prayer...that 1. God gives you His heart for the lost, 2. opportunities to share the gospel this week, 3. courage to take the opportunities, 4. His words to say during the opportunity, and 5. Hope/faith to leave the results up to God as only He can convict, convince, and convert (John 16:8).

The Biblical Gospel is the GOOD NEWS that Jesus' perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection offers us/everyone God's righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life IF we repent of our sins and believe/trust in Jesus by faith as our Savior and Lord!

1. **God's Wrath (Perfect Justice) Romans 1:17-18** <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.
2. **God's Righteousness (Perfect Blood) Romans 3:21-26** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
3. **God's Grace (Perfect Love) Romans 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
4. **God's Requirement (Perfect Promise) Romans 10:9-13** <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved...the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him, for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How can you personally grow, progress, and be more obedient to the Great Commission?

#### IV. Main Points: Converts and Conflicts in Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)

1. **UnDeterred** (indominable spirit) Apostles (never quit, never give up, never surrender!) “They spoke in a way that a large number of people believed” (Lit. “they spoke thus so that believed Jews and also Gentiles many multitudes”) (Acts 19:8, 28:23-24, 2 Cor. 5:11)
2. **Disbelieving** – the Jews who disbelieved STIRRED up (ἐπεγείρω *epegeiro*: to rouse up, excite) the minds (Lit. souls - ψυχή *psuche*: breath, the soul) of the Gentiles to be embittered (κακῶ *kakoo*: to ill-treat, harm, mistreat) against the brethren (Acts 13:50, 14:2)
3. **Discord** towards brethren - embittered against the brethren (causing/spreading bitterness – usually target is church leadership by casting doubt, suspicion/scrutiny, questioning motives, qualifications, comparisons, slander, fault-finding, diversion, critical spirit, anti-authoritarian, unteachableness) (Prov. 6:14, 6:16-19, 12:17, 19:5-9, Ps. 27:12, Eph. 4:25, Rom. 16:17-18, James 4:11, Titus 3:9-11, 1 Peter 2:11, Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Tim. 5:19-20, Col. 3:12-17)
4. **Divided** city – people of the city were divided (σχίζω *schizo*: to cleave, split) (Mt 12:25, Mk. 3:24, Lk 11:17, \*12:51-53, Acts 14:4, 23:7)
5. **Danger** – seeking to mistreat (ὕβριζω *hubrizo*: to run riot, to outrage, insult) and stone (λιθοβολέω *lithoboleo*: to pelt with stones, to stone them) the Apostles (overall Satan seeking to steal, kill, and destroy) (Mt. 21:35, Acts 5:26, 14:19, 2 Cor. 11:25, Heb. 11:37)

Look up some of the parallel verses for each of the main points – did anything stand out to you to know, stop, change, or do?

**Key Verse – Acts 14:3** - 3 Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

**TIME is needed to stabilize and mature new believers** - Notice the genuine love/concern by giving of the Apostles **TIME** – a long term – this was necessary to stabilize, mature, and train the people to discern and defend against the fierce opposition, lies, and confusion Satan was brewing through his minions/unbelievers. It takes a while/a long time to disciple brand new baby Christians to maturity where they know the Word, obey the word, and can pass on the word to others (one of the benchmarks of Christian maturity is spiritual reproduction through evangelism and discipleship). (Ex. Francis Chan leaving mega church after realizing the church was not producing mature believers who could lead people to Christ and disciple them). Paul not only shared his message but his LIFE as well. (1 Thess. 2:8) Jesus poured his life into 12 men, Paul reproduced himself in many faithful men, especially other Pastors (Pastoral epistles/letters to Timothy and Titus) and called them to pour their life into faithful men who would be able to teach/disciple others (2 Timothy 2:2) so as to have Spiritual MULTIPLICATION.

**Speaking boldly while relying on the Lord** - Notice they were bold but “**speaking out boldly with reliance on the Lord**” (we’ve talked a lot lately about prayer, fasting, and making sure we are speaking God’s word, and serving with God’s strength as 1 Peter 4:11 says <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Testifying to God’s grace** – God is the one who saves, sanctifies and glorifies not us – all glory to Him because of His amazing grace (undeserved gift of God – getting what we don’t deserve ... we have received righteous standing to enter the coming Kingdom of God – what a gracious gift!

**God’s greatness and power is greater than Satan’s/evil’s power and temporary rule/control over this fallen world**

**Granting Signs and wonders** – done at the Apostles hands – I wish Elders had miraculous powers to convict and convince people to be saved, to prove to people who are manipulating the Word of God it would be nice to prove you are right by a little sign or two (take some of that brother) but as I think about it God gave the Apostles and the early church signs and wonders – but to us He has given a complete canon of revelation – I think I think I would rather have a full Bible than signs as we can see – even signs did not convince everyone – as some hearts are so hard – not even wonders from God break up their heart of stone.

**Cessationism vs Continuationism** - Btw if you are new – tbc takes a cessationist position (some spiritual gifts and the apostolic sign gifts have ceased) rather than a continuationist view (all the gifts continue today) based on **1 Cor. 13:8** <sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away. **2 Cor. 12:12** <sup>12</sup> The things that mark an apostle-- signs, wonders and miracles-- were done among you with great perseverance. **2 Cor. 12:12** <sup>12</sup> The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles. **Rev. 2:2-3** <sup>2</sup> 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be false*; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

**Mistreat and stone** - Possibly two attempts on Paul and Barnabas' life – one by Jews with their leaders and one by the Gentiles with their leaders – one perhaps to mistreat and one to stone them (likely the stoning was the Jews as this was their prescribed method of capital punishment)

**Overall – God is greater than our trials and will help us when the pushback comes** – remember that God sustained Paul and Barnabas to keep on keeping on. God's power is greater than Satan/evil – we through Christ prevail, overcome, and win in the end! We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us, greater is He who is in us than the evil one in this world.

**Perseverance out of love** - Continued to preach the gospel (Lit. there preaching good news they were") in the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe) - Take about undeterred – to keep going with the gospel and missionary work after someone tries to kill you twice – most might cut and run – but here they “continued to preach the gospel”

That is love, perseverance, and plain old guts, courage, backbone, spine, and supernatural sustaining to carry on.

**How can you or we as a church grow in love or perseverance and protection/defense against pushback?**

**V. Conclusion:** As I talked about last week – when we **move out or make progress in obedience to Christ** – especially in the area of evangelism (when we are being a threat to Satan to steal some of his peeps – his goats to turn them to sheep, or turn his tares into wheat – he gets mad and comes after us in various ways – namely to do whatever it takes to stop us from being fruitful in leading new people to Christ, to keep us from praying and power from the Most High, to cut us off from truth/filling our minds with God's powerful words/Bible, and fight hard to divide the church in order to to keep us from fellowship, encouragement, but namely keep us from coordination and progress that we can have in better serving God together than apart – our enemy doesn't want you to fully utilize your spiritual gifts, doesn't want us all to be mobilized and maximized in evangelism or getting disciplined until we best equipped to share our faith.

**So therefore be on the alert and ready for the push back, opposition**, and various ways Satan will come at us (usually through unbelievers sometimes through circumstances and often through temptations). Yet, just as us military officers know by our training and experience – the more opposition you encounter on the battlefield is confirmation you are being a threat to the enemy, that you are near vital resources or strategic positions/the high ground, but if you don't see or have any opposition it probably means you are in a non-vital area, not a strategic threat, and not much of a worry or concern of the enemy because you are threatening no vital interest he has (in this case he might leave many Christians alone who are content just to play church or live their comfortable Christianity – but the moment we grow in our knowledge of the Word, and especially obedience and application of it – particularly in the area of evangelism and discipleship – watch out the push back is there, coming, or on the way, because...

**Satan can't get any Christians back** – he can't reverse the salvation process – make you unborn again, steal you from God, boot out the Holy Spirit from inside – he is not that powerful – but whatever he can do to get you/us from taking anymore goats of his and through the gospel converting them into children of God, saints, follower/worshippers of Jesus, and citizens of the Kingdom – he will fight tooth and nail against us and we must be prepared, be ready with strong spiritual defenses (prayer/faith) as we put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6) and appropriate all the resources God has given us to WIN (Himself, His Son, His Spirit, His Word, His Church/each other, and someday I believe soon – His KINGDOM!

**So be faithful TBC**, so be joyful and filled with the Holy Spirit each day as Acts 13:52 states, continue in the grace/power of God Acts 13:43, – remain true to the Lord – Acts 11:23 ... and don't try to live the Christian life out of human effort – its doesn't work, fails miserably, crashes and burns – because Satan is more powerful than us, but OUR GOD is more powerful than him – remember “greater is He who is in us than the one in the world – (**1 John 4:4, 2:13-17, Romans 8:37-39**)

**VI. Application: Acts 16:1-3, 2 Tim. 3:10-11.** What can we learn from the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey? We can learn many things from Paul's first missionary journey: how God calls individuals to become missionaries, the importance of having a supportive home church, the helpfulness of having ministry partners, realistic expectations that not everyone will accept the gospel message, the need to raise up leaders in groups of new believers and to check in on them periodically, and the joy of sharing what God has done by reporting back to those who have prayed for you. This first missionary journey helped spread the gospel and prepared Paul for his other journeys in the years following.

**What is ONE thing you learned or want to apply from this sermon?**

# TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



## FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

### LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

**Matthew 22:37-38** <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." <sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

### SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

**Matthew 22:39** <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

### REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



# Acts 14:1–28

1 In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. 2 But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. 3 Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. 4 But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5 And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them,



# Acts 14:1-28

6 they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel. 8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and began to walk. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us."



# Acts 14:1-28

12 And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.





# Acts 14:1-28

16 "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; 17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." 18 Even saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them. 19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.





# Acts 14:1–28

21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.



# Acts 14:1–28

24 They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia.  
25 When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.



# Lord Jesus Help me THIS DAY prayers...

- ▶ **My relationship with God:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me live THIS DAY for you, for your will and glory. Show me, lead me, and guide me to be all in and all for you – to be successful and pleasing in your eyes alone – that you would have 1<sup>st</sup> place/supremacy in everything I think, do, and say today.
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- ▶ **Overall, my commitment/confession to follow Jesus as Lord:** Dear Lord Jesus, help me as I commit, resolve, and promise to be a faithful slave and disciple who learns, follows, and worships you THIS DAY. May I be fully utilized for your Kingdom and Glory THIS DAY.



# Join Truth Bible Church for Vacation Bible School!

## Deuteronomy 6:5-7

<sup>5</sup> You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

<sup>6</sup> These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

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**THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL** is the GOOD NEWS that Jesus' perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection offers us God's righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life **IF we will REPENT and believe by FAITH in JESUS as our Savior and Lord!**

**Romans 1:17-18** <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **Romans 3:21-26** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **Romans 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **Romans 10:9-13** <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> The same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him, for **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**



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**Romans 1:17-18** <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **Romans 3:21-26** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **Romans 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **Romans 10:9-13** <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him, for "**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"



# God's Wrath (Perfect Justice)

- ▶ **Romans 1:17-18** <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

# God's Righteousness (Perfect Blood)

▶ **Romans 3:21-26** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,<sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;<sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;<sup>26</sup> for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

# God's Grace (Perfect Love)

▶ **Romans 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

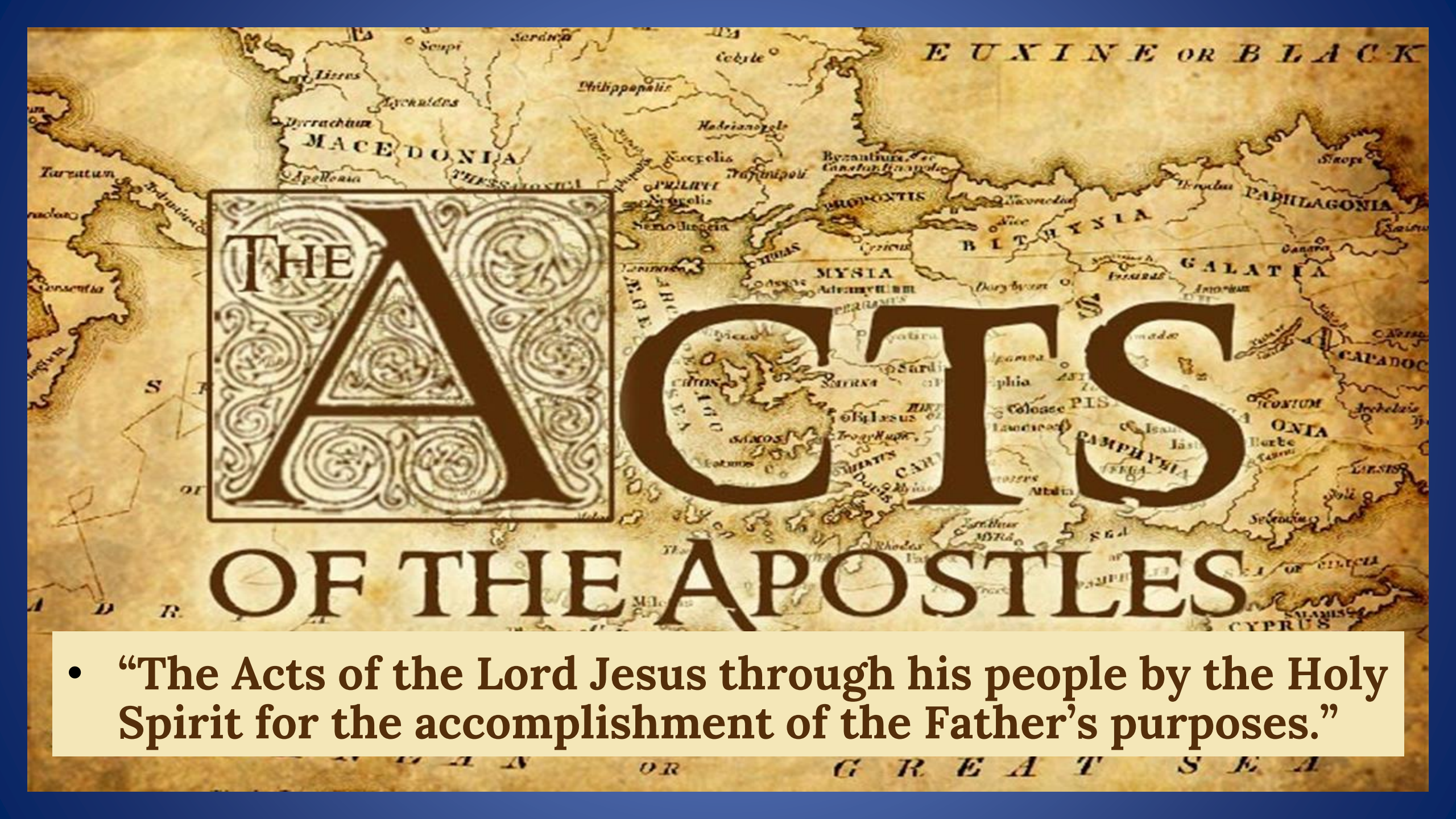


# God's Requirement (Perfect Promise)

▶ **Romans 10:9-13** <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved...the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him, for **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

▶



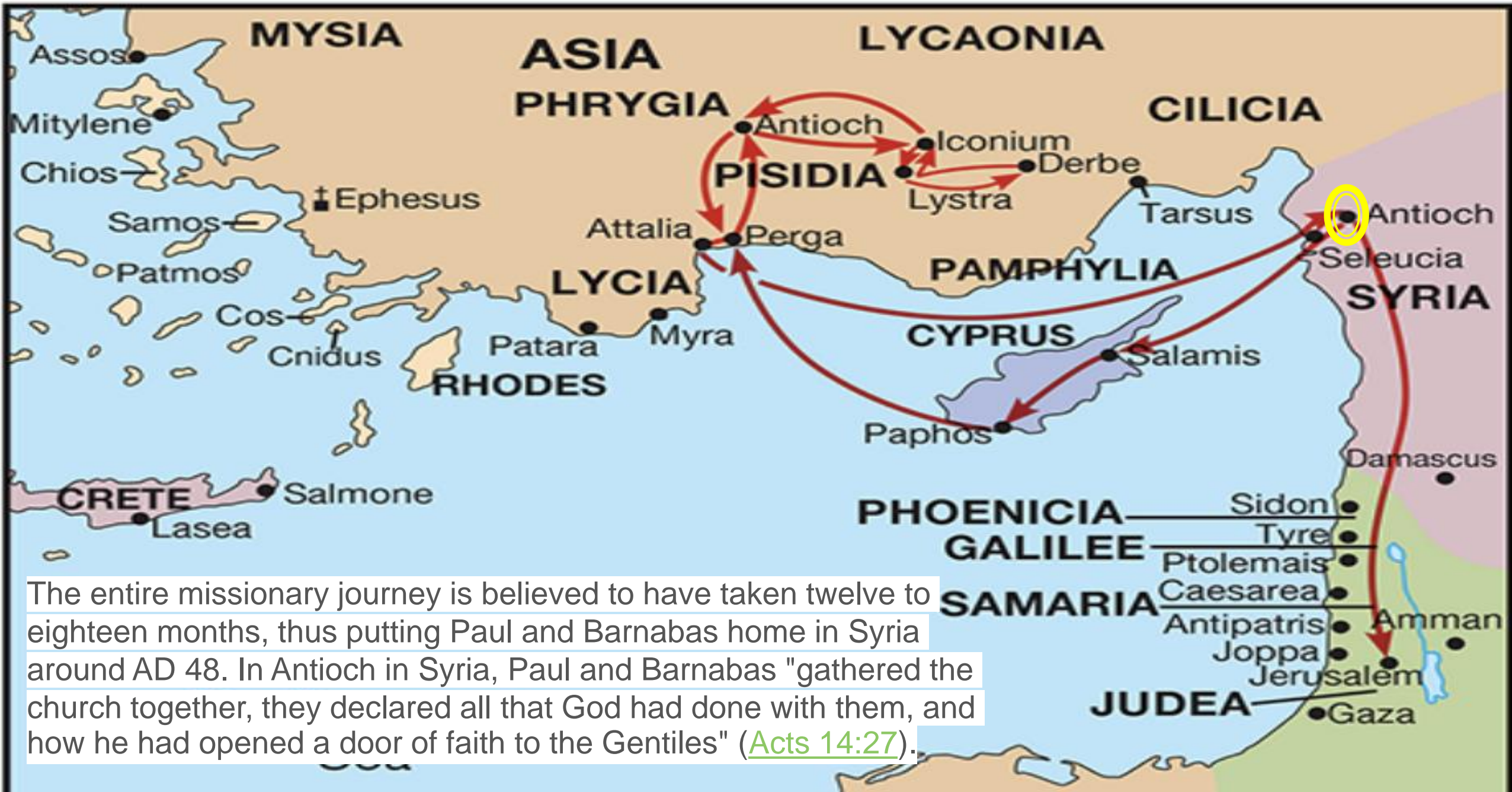


**THE ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through His people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”



Paul's First Missionary Journey • AD 47–49 • Acts 13:1–14:28



The entire missionary journey is believed to have taken twelve to eighteen months, thus putting Paul and Barnabas home in Syria around AD 48. In Antioch in Syria, Paul and Barnabas "gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" ([Acts 14:27](#)).



# New Testament Churches







































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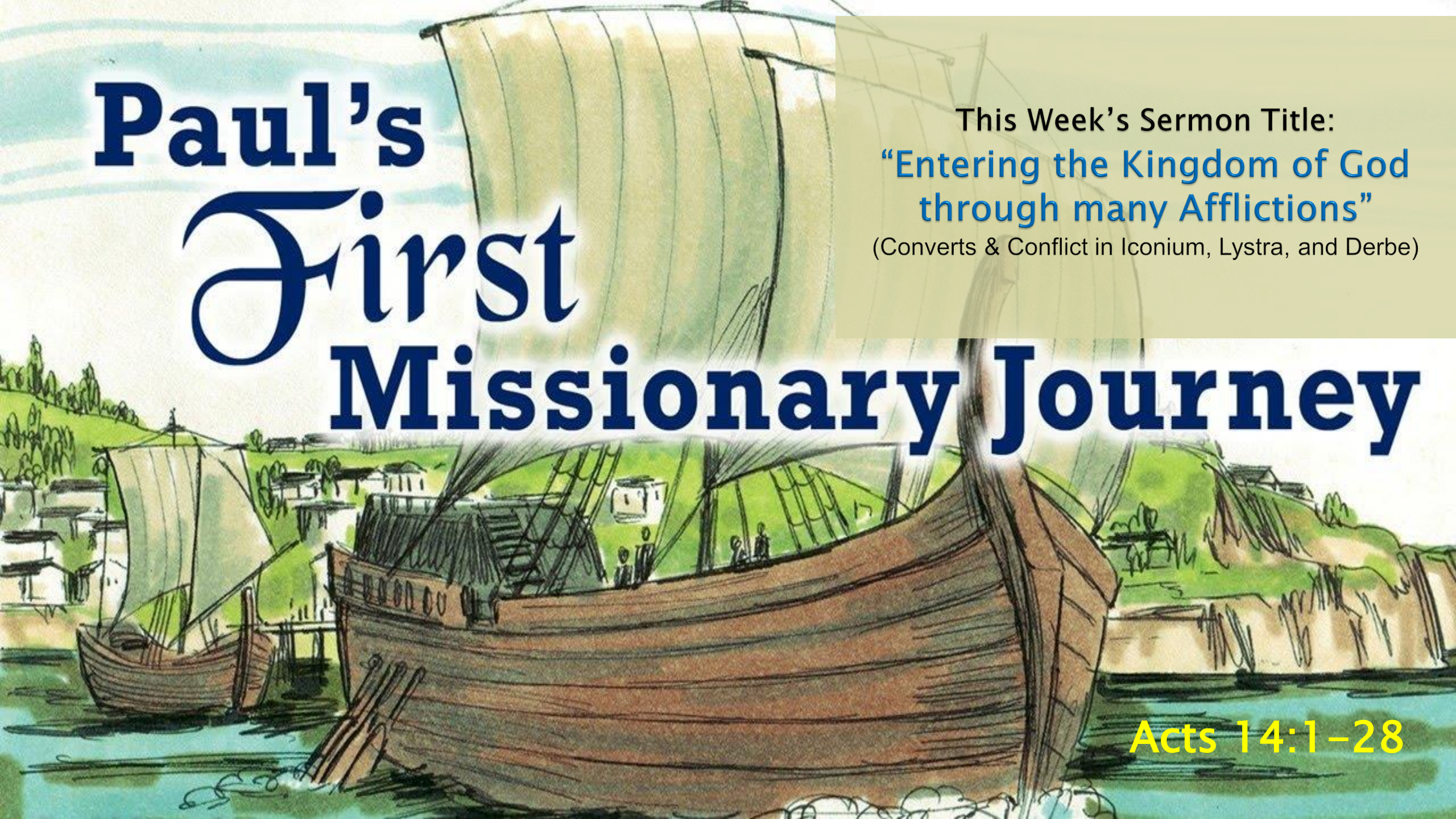




# What can we learn from the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey?

- ▶ We can learn many things from Paul's first missionary journey: how God calls individuals to become missionaries, the importance of having a supportive home church, the helpfulness of having ministry partners, realistic expectations that not everyone will accept the gospel message, the need to raise up leaders in groups of new believers and to check in on them periodically, and the joy of sharing what God has done by reporting back to those who have prayed for you. This first missionary journey helped spread the gospel and prepared Paul for his other journeys in the years following.





# Paul's First Missionary Journey

This Week's Sermon Title:  
"Entering the Kingdom of God  
through many Afflictions"  
(Converts & Conflict in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe)

Acts 14:1-28



## Acts 14:1–5 Converts and Conflict in Iconium (5 D's—verses 14:1–5)

1. **UnDeterred** (indominable spirit) Apostles (never quit, never give up, never surrender!) “They spoke in a way that a large number of people believed” (Lit. “they spoke thus so that believed Jews and also Gentiles many multitudes”) (Acts 19:8, 28:23–24, 2 Cor. 5:11)
2. **Disbelieving** – the Jews who disbelieved **STIRRED** up (ἐπεγεῖρω *epegeiro*: to rouse up, excite) the minds (Lit. souls – ψυχή *psuche*: breath, the soul) of the Gentiles to be embittered (κακῶω *kakoo*: to ill-treat, harm, mistreat) against the brethren (Acts 13:50, 14:2)
3. **Discord** towards brethren – embittered against the brethren (causing/spreading bitterness – usually target is church leadership by casting doubt, suspicion/scrutiny, questioning motives, qualifications, comparisons, slander, fault-finding, diversion, critical spirit, anti-authoritarian, unteachableness) (Prov. 6:14, 6:16–19, 12:17, 19:5–9, Ps. 27:12, Eph. 4:25, Rom. 16:17–18, James 4:11, Titus 3:9–11, 1 Peter 2:11, Matthew 18:15–20, 1 Tim. 5:19–20, Col. 3:12–17)
4. **Divided** city – people of the city were divided (σχίζω *schizo*: to cleave, split) (Mt 12:25, Mk. 3:24, Lk 11:17, \*12:51–53, Acts 14:4, 23:7)
5. **Danger** – seeking to mistreat (ὑβρίζω *hubrizo*: to run riot, to outrage, insult) and stone (λιθοβολέω *lithoboleo*: to pelt with stones, to stone them) the Apostles (overall Satan seeking to steal, kill, and destroy) (Mt. 21:35, Acts 5:26, 14:19, 2 Cor. 11:25, Heb. 11:37)

**Key Verse – Acts 14:3 – 3 Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.**

**TIME is needed to stabilize and mature new believers** – Notice the genuine love/concern by giving of the Apostles **TIME** – a long term – this was necessary to stabilize, mature, and train the people to discern and defend against the fierce opposition, lies, and confusion Satan was brewing through his minions/unbelievers. It takes a while/a long time to disciple brand new baby Christians to maturity where they know the Word, obey the word, and can pass on the word to others (one of the bench marks of Christian maturity is spiritual reproduction through evangelism and discipleship). (Ex. Francis Chan leaving mega church after realizing the church was not producing mature believers who could lead people to Christ and disciple them). Paul not only shared his message but his LIFE as well. **(1 Thess. 2:8) Jesus poured his life into 12 men**, Paul reproduced himself in many faithful men, especially other Pastors (Pastoral epistles/letters to Timothy and Titus) and called them to pour their life into faithful men who would be able to teach/disciple others **(2 Timothy 2:2)** so as to have Spiritual MULTIPLICATION.

**Speaking boldly while relying on the Lord** – Notice they were bold but “speaking out boldly with reliance on the Lord” (we’ve talked a lot lately about prayer, fasting, and making sure we are speaking God’s word, and serving with God’s strength as **1 Peter 4:11** says **11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Testifying to God’s grace** – God is the one who saves, sanctifies and glorifies not us – all glory to Him because of His amazing grace (undeserved gift of God – getting what we don’t deserve ... we have received righteous standing to enter the coming Kingdom of God – what a gracious gift!



# God's greatness and power is greater than Satan's/evil's power and temporary rule/control over this fallen world

**Granting Signs and wonders** – done at the Apostles hands – I wish Elders had miraculous powers to convict and convince people to be saved, to prove to people who are manipulating the Word of God it would be nice to prove you are right by a little sign or two (take some of that brother) but as I think about it God gave the Apostles and the early church signs and wonders – but to us He has given a complete canon of revelation – I think I think I would rather have a full Bible than signs as we can see – even signs did not convince everyone – as some hearts are so hard – not even wonders from God break up their heart of stone.

**Cessationism vs Continuationism** - Btw if you are new – tbc takes a cessationist position (some spiritual gifts and the apostolic sign gifts have ceased) rather than a continuationist view (all the gifts continue today) based on 1 Cor. 13:8 <sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away. 2 Cor. 12:12 <sup>12</sup> The things that mark an apostle-- signs, wonders and miracles-- were done among you with great perseverance. 2 Cor. 12:12 <sup>12</sup> The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles. Rev. 2:2-3 <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be false*; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

**Mistreat and stone** - Possibly two attempts on Paul and Barnabas' life – one by Jews with their leaders and one by the Gentiles with their leaders – one perhaps to mistreat and one to stone them (likely the stoning was the Jews as this was their prescribed method of capital punishment)

**Overall – God is greater than our trials and will help us when the pushback comes** – remember that God sustained Paul and Barnabus to keep on keeping on. God's power is greater than Satan/evil – we through Christ prevail, overcome, and win in the end! We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us, greater is He who is in us than the evil one in this world.

(Romans 8:37-39, 1 John 2:13-17, 1 John 4:4)



# Acts 14:6–11 – Perseverance out of love

**Continued to preach the gospel (Lit. there preaching good news they were”)** in the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe) – Take about undeterred – to keep going with the gospel and missionary work after someone tries to kill you twice – most might cut and run – but here they “continued to preach the gospel”

That is love, perseverance, and plain old guts, courage, backbone, spine, and supernatural sustaining to carry on.



Are you any threat to the enemy as far as leading others to Christ or newer believers towards maturity/spiritual reproduction? (Ex. of Scout platoon not finding the enemy because not in a vital area/high ground, not a threat to vital resources/supply lines, not strategic threat (new souls saved, new people disciplined to also help new souls be saved))

- ▶ **Conclusion:** As I talked about last week – when we move out or make progress in obedience to Christ – especially in the area of evangelism (when we are being a threat to Satan to steal some of his peeps – his goats to turn them to sheep, or turn his tares into wheat – he gets mad and comes after us in various ways – namely to do whatever it takes to stop us from being fruitful in leading new people to Christ, to keep us from praying and power from the Most High, to cut us off from truth/filling our minds with God’s powerful words/Bible, and fight hard to divide the church in order to keep us from fellowship, encouragement, but namely keep us from coordination and progress that we can have in better serving God together than apart – our enemy doesn’t want you to fully utilize your spiritual gifts, doesn’t want us all to be mobilized and maximized in evangelism or getting disciplined until we best equipped to share our faith.



Are you any threat to the enemy as far as leading others to Christ or newer believers towards maturity/spiritual reproduction? (Ex. of Scout platoon not finding the enemy because not in a vital area/high ground, not a threat to vital resources/supply lines, not strategic threat (new souls saved, new people disciplined to also help new souls be saved))

- ▶ So therefore be on the alert and ready for the push back, opposition, and various ways Satan will come at us (usually through unbelievers sometimes through circumstances and often through temptations). Yet, just as us military officers know by our training and experience – the more opposition you encounter on the battlefield is confirmation you are being a threat to the enemy, that you are near vital resources or strategic positions/the high ground, but if you don't see or have any opposition it probably means you are in a non-vital area, not a strategic threat, and not much of a worry or concern of the enemy because you are threatening no vital interest he has (in this case he might leave many Christians alone who are content just to play church or live their comfortable Christianity – but the moment we grow in our knowledge of the Word, and especially obedience and application of it – particularly in the area of evangelism and discipleship – watch out the push back is there, coming, or on the way, because...



Are you any threat to the enemy as far as leading others to Christ or newer believers towards maturity/spiritual reproduction? (Ex. of Scout platoon not finding the enemy because not in a vital area/high ground, not a threat to vital resources/supply lines, not strategic threat (new souls saved, new people disciplined to also help new souls be saved))

- ▶ **Satan can't get any Christians back** – he can't reverse the salvation process – make you unborn again, steal you from God, boot out the Holy Spirit from inside – he is not that powerful – but whatever he can do to get you/us from taking anymore goats of his and through the gospel converting them into children of God, saints, follower/worshipers of Jesus, and citizens of the Kingdom – he will fight tooth and nail against us and we must be prepared, be ready with strong spiritual defenses (prayer/faith) as we put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6) and appropriate all the resources God has given us to WIN (Himself, His Son, His Spirit, His Word, His Church/each other, and someday I believe soon – His KINGDOM!



Are you any threat to the enemy as far as leading others to Christ or newer believers towards maturity/spiritual reproduction? (Ex. of Scout platoon not finding the enemy because not in a vital area/high ground, not a threat to vital resources/supply lines, not strategic threat (new souls saved, new people disciplined to also help new souls be saved))

So be faithful TBC, so be joyful and filled with the Holy Spirit each day as Acts 13:52 states, continue in the grace/power of God Acts 13:43, – remain true to the Lord – Acts 11:23 ... and don't try to live the Christian life out of human effort – it doesn't work, fails miserably, crashes and burns – because Satan is more powerful than us, but OUR GOD is more powerful than him – remember “greater is He who is in us than the one in the world –

1 Jn. 4:4 <sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 Jn. 2:13-17 <sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.



# SO WHAT?

## Application



### **Acts 16:1-3**

Then came he (Apostle Paul) to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus (Timothy), the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him . . .

### **2 Timothy 3:10-11**

But thou (Timothy) hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra: what persecutions I (Apostle Paul) endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.