

“DOCTRINE THAT DANCES”

Studies in the Basic Teachings of the Christian Faith

Acts 14:19-28; Acts 19:1-10

“Church Multiplication”

Introduction: This message will introduce what the Bible teaches about the church.

I. Laboring in the Harvest as Sheep in the Midst of Wolves (Acts 14:19-28)

- A. Jesus Christ entered the scene, calling all people to follow Him. The distinguishing factor is the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is upon this (Rock) confession that Jesus builds His church (Matthew 16:18; John 6:60-71). Discipleship in this context was similar to an apprenticeship (Luke 6:40; Matthew 10:24-25; John 4:1). The church officially began 50 days after the resurrection of Christ on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47). Discipleship requires sacrifice, loyalty, and commitment (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 28:19-20).
- B. The church in Antioch became the first multicultural sending church at the command of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey included ministry in Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, Paphos, Perga in Pamphylia, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, and Lystra (Acts 13:1-14:18). Paul is stoned in Lystra and left for dead. The ministry pattern of Paul and Barnabas is to preach the Gospel and make disciples. This activity is happening in the context of persecution. They strengthened the souls (hearts and minds) of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith. They organized the disciples into a local church and established a clearly defined leadership structure. Elders are tasked with shepherding and overseeing the local congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). Paul and Barnabas finished their work and returned to the sending church to report out. Are we seeking to entrust workers to the grace of God?

II. From Ephesus to all of Asia (Acts 19:1-10)

- A. Paul comes to Ephesus and finds some disciples and inquires about their experience with the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is part of the New Covenant relationship with God through Christ. Paul used the John the Baptist connection as a bridge to Jesus. The disciples believe and are transitioned into the New Covenant church.
- B. Opposition against the Gospel led Paul to separate the disciples from the synagogue and relocate to a lecture hall. People who claim to believe in God but reject Christ do not have God. (1 John 2:22-23). From the new base of operations, the entire province of Asia was saturated with the Gospel.



Summary and observations:

Start with low-hanging fruit. First attempts at evangelism generally led to good results, but the opposition came after the harvest.

Live as a missional community. Paul and the disciples engaged with the synagogue together as a team.

Discern when it is time to separate. The church gained a separate identity over time.

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

“Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).

“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” (John 10:16 NKJV)

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