

Acts 13

Revival Spreads

Overview

1. The Birth of Missions:

Missionary activity emanating out from the local church begins at the church in Antioch. This church will become the central launching place from which men will be sent in the spreading of the Gospel throughout many of the remaining chapters in the book of Acts.

2. The Separation of Barnabas and Saul to Ministry: (Verses 1-3)

There is a group of prophets and teachers who are spending time together ministering to the Lord. As they are fasting and praying, the Lord speaks to them and says He has called Barnabas and Saul and they are to be separated for the work God has called them to. In response, the men with Barnabas and Saul pray, lay hands on them, and send them away.

3. Preaching in Cyprus: (Verses 4-12)

Barnabas and Paul travel from Antioch to the city of Selucia, just south of Antioch and from there sail to the island of Cyprus. They arrive in the city of Salamis where they preach to the Jews in their synagogues. From there they travel to Paphos and the proconsul calls for them because he wants to hear the Word of God. Present with the proconsul is a sorcerer who tries to turn him from the message of faith Barnabas and Saul preach. Saul (Paul) filled with the Holy Spirit, confronts the man, who suddenly becomes blind and requests to be led out of the room by his hand. When the proconsul sees this “wonder,” he believes.

5. Paul Preaches in Antioch: (Verses 13-42)

Paul and Barnabas travel from Cyprus to Antioch and John (Mark) returns to Jerusalem. When they arrived at the city of Pisidia in Antioch, they enter the synagogue on the Sabbath. Because they are visitors, they are invited to speak and Paul accepts their invitation. He begins by giving a brief history of the Jews and like Stephen, he will use Jewish history to reveal that Jesus Christ is the God of Israel.

6. God's Grace: (Verses 43-49)

After Paul preaches in the synagogue, the Gentiles want to hear more of his message. The next Sabbath nearly the entire city arrives to hear Paul's message. Seeing the multitudes gathered, the Jews become envious, but the Word continues to spread throughout the entire region.

7. Paul and Barnabas Expelled: (Verses 50-52)

The religious Jews who are angry with Paul and Barnabas cause prominent men and women to also become angry and persecution results and they are expelled from the city. Upon leaving, they shake the dust from their feet as instructed by Jesus.

The Challenge of Chapter Thirteen:

Missions are important to the spreading of the gospel and for teaching the message of grace to those who have not heard. Sending others out who God has called to specific missions should be an integral part of the local church. We should be bold to preach God's Word even in the midst of persecution, but if an individual or group of people reject the message of the gospel, we need to move on to others whose hearts are open.