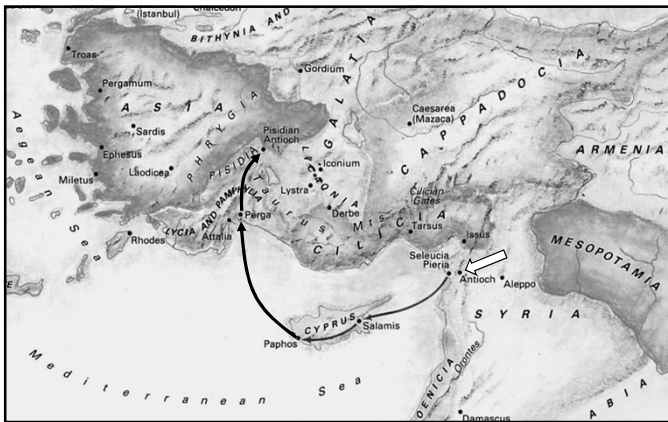


*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*Acts 13

The Beginning of World Missions



As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles."

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 13:42-52)

*Acts 13:42-52

Glory and Opposition to the Word of God

Paul's Developing Missionary Method

1. To the Jews first (v.46)
 - They were the rightful inheritors of the covenant promises to Abraham, David, etc.
 2. Then to the Gentiles (v.46)
 - God's plan had always been to save Gentiles as well (v.47, quoting Isaiah 49:6)
- ... and to all joyfully!

Application: Sharing the Good News

We should share the gospel joyfully like Paul did
... but we often don't.

Sharing the Good News Joyfully

Trusting Jesus frees us...

1. from self-righteousness.
2. from the vindictive spirit.
3. from the pressure to produce converts.