

Galatians Handout

Week Three

Review: Acts 13

Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

2 Tim. 3:16 All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We're saved by grace. What are we sanctified by?

Heb. 12:14 *Make every effort* to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

2 Tim. 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

Rom. 6:13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to Him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Rom. 6:19b For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now *present* your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Heb. 10:14 For by a single offering he *has perfected* for all time those who *are being* sanctified.

How did the audience respond to Paul?

Acts 13:43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

Who are the saved so far?

Why is the crowd bigger?

Acts 13:44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, that You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.'"

When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

Why do Paul's sermons work at all?

Acts 13: 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.

Disciples??

Persecution...out of the district?

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

“Continually filled”

Iconium. Acts 14:2 But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them (made them believe hurtful/evil things) against the brethren.

Volatility then and now.

Acts 14:2 But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. 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.

Acts 14:5 And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Lystra.

Acts 14:15 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. In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; 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.”

*Important biblical lesson:

Acts 14:20 But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city.

What is the good news here?

-
-

Why isn't Paul confused about the trajectory of this mission?

Acts. 9:15 But the Lord said to him (Ananias), “Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for *I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.*”

*The caution regarding ministry:

Resolve in the face of the crowd.

Mat. 21:8 Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!”

Mat. 27:22 Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Crucify Him!” And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “Crucify Him!”

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

Derbe

Acts 14:20 The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made *many disciples*, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening (making resolute) the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue (persevere) in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

How is this encouraging?!

- 1.
- 2.

Acts 14:23 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.

2 Tim.3:10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

2 Tim. 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

Acts 14:26 [From Attalia] they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace *of God* for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Acts 15:1,5 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ...5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

Discussion

1. Without discussing the merit of these convictions, (seriously, don't do it) list a few of what *some people* might consider to be solid moral stances that all Christians should agree on. You can't use the Ten Commandments. I'll get you started: Abortion is against God's law. Come up with at least three others.

2. Is a person's position on any of the issues you listed a deal-breaker or a barrier to salvation?

3. Now it gets spicy. What about ten years after a person's profession of faith. What if that person is still making a living as a prostitute, or engaging in petty theft, or consumed with envy or bent on malicious gossip, or never attends church or reads their Bible.
Would you question their salvation? Should you?
How should you address your concern? Can you back up your answer with scripture?

4. If a person's conduct does not seem to match up with their profession of faith in Christ, do you think it is because they don't understand the law, or they don't fully understand grace?

5. Where are you experiencing pushback in your attempts to share the gospel?
Is there a setting where you need more courage to share? Ask for prayer.
Paul made it a point to "strengthen the souls" of the disciples.
In what area do you need your soul strengthened today? Ask for prayer.