



Decade of Availability Light, Joy & The Spirit

Paul and Barnabas enter the city of Antioch in Pisidia with open arms. By the time they leave they are ‘dusting off their feet.’ But they leave full of joy and the Holy Spirit.

Background: Paul now goes to Antioch in Pisidia and is asked by the synagogue leaders to speak to the congregation. This is the first full sermon of Paul is recorded in Acts. (Acts 13:16-37)

Paul makes four major points:

1. We preach the promise made to our fathers
2. God promised to send a Saviour through the line of David
3. This Savior is Jesus (Yeshua) the promised one
4. The resurrection is the fulfillment of the promise

A. The Word and Warning vv. 38-41

1. **The Word:** vv. 38-39 This is the Word of the cross. It is by faith, and not the works of the Law of Moses, that a person is justified acquitted, forgiven and set free.
2. **The Warning:** vv. 40-41; *Hab 1:5* They must choose which side of the prophetic cause they will embrace: The opponents of Jesus or the believing disciples.

How do you choose His way each day?

B. The Word and the Grace of God vv. 42-43

1. **Hungering for the Word:** Gentiles, Jews and proselytes (Gentiles who had converted to Judaism) are described as ‘wanting more’ of Paul’s message of grace. Paul and Barnabas encourage them to ‘continue’ [press in] to God’s grace.

Are you ‘pressing’ into His grace each day?

C. The Word and Salvation vv. 44-52

1. **The next sabbath day:** vv. 44-45 When the whole city turns out to hear the Word—opposition starts. **Jealousy at the success of others is sadly a common human failing, and religious leaders are especially vulnerable to such behavior.**
2. **Holy boldness:** vv. 46-47 The gospel is the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel, and Jews everywhere have a prior right to hear what God has done for them.

The Light: Jesus is the Light *Jn 1:8-9*; and Paul identifies his call ‘prophetically’ with *Isa 49:6*—to the end of the earth.

3. **The Word received:** vv. 48-49 The Gentiles glorified the Word (Jesus) and were glad. Filled with the Word they went out and shared the good news of the Gospel.
4. **The Word rejected:** v. 50 To this day there are those who reject the Word and stir up others to reject the Word of God. The modern version of ‘expelled’ is the move to get anything to do with God or the Bible out of the public.
5. **Filled with joy and the Spirit:** vv. 51-52 This ‘shaking off of dust’ is symbolic of ‘moving on’ and does not mean Paul would never share with the Jews again.

Are you filled with joy and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to be the Light wherever you go?

If you’re not fishing you’re not following!

Acts 13:38-52 (KJV)

38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. **43** Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. **48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. **50** But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. **51** But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

