

Q: What was the warning Paul gave if people rejected God's free offer of forgiveness and new life only through Jesus?

Q: (vv.42-52) Describe the different reaction to Paul's message.

*note those who "believed" also were "appointed" by God—this shows the Sovereignty of God and yet the free choice of each person to choose Christ! _____

Q: God's Law was graciously given to the Jews through Moses to show God's people how to live for Him and be in fellowship with a Holy God. They also showed how the people fall short of God's glory and need a permanent Rescuer. Why was it so hard for the Jews to accept that Jesus was the Promised Messiah? Why did the Gentiles seem to receive the gospel more eagerly than the Jews? _____

Q: (v.39) To be "justified" (freed) is to be declared "not guilty." The Law of Moses only pointed out how we were guilty before a Holy God. They were like an X-Ray showing us the problem, but having no power to actually fix the problem. Only God (Jesus) could do that. Jesus died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins, forgive us our sins, transfer His righteousness to our lives, so that we could have a restored relationship with God. That's grace! (vv.49, 52) How can people act as though then can be saved another way? _____

How has the Holy Spirit and God's Word given you joy to share with others? _____

PRAY: Lord thank you for your grace in rescuing me! Lead me by your Spirit and Your Word to live a joy-filled life that points others to You. Give me discernment to know when to speak, what to speak and how to speak. May You be glorified and draw others to saving relationship with You. Amen!

Harvest Growing Deeper

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of Aug 16, 2020

Acts 13

Chapter 13 picks up where chapter 11 leaves off. The church is growing and spreads to Antioch. We see a shift in focus from here on, from ministry to Jews to ministry to non-Jews (Gentiles). Saul (Paul) replaces Peter as the central figure in the rest of the book of Acts, as he gospel is spread far beyond Jerusalem. We see a very diverse church, yet led and unified by the same Holy Spirit.

Q: How do you know if you have been called by God to serve Him in some specific way? Describe your experience.

Q: (vv.1-3) The church in Antioch apparently was very diverse. Simeon (Niger) was a black man, Lucius was from Cyrene (Libya, North Africa), and Manaen was a close friend of King Herod Antipas and worked in his administration. What were they all doing when they heard from the Holy Spirit?

Q: After God's message to them, what was their response (v.3)? What's the significance of these actions? _____

Q: What does this diversity in church leadership tells us about God's heart for unity among the diversity in His family?

Q: (v.4) Who truly sent out Saul & Barnabas? When they arrived in Cyprus, what did they immediately do?

Q: It was typical of Jewish synagogues to invite educated guests to speak. How would this provide a great platform for the gospel?

Q: (vv.6-8) what opposition did they face? (vv.9-11) What was Paul's response? (*notice the name change from the Jewish name "Saul" to the Roman name "Paul.")

Q: (vv.11-12) God shows great mercy on this "son of Jesus" Elymas the magician. God could have struck him dead. The miracle had an effect on the proconsul (governor), but what was he astonished at?

Q: How does this show us that God's Word alone (and His Spirit working behind the scenes) can change hearts?

Q: (v.13) "John (Mark) left them." We don't know exactly why he abandoned them but Paul would not be happy about it! (Acts 15:36-40). Barnabas would later give Mark a second chance, and Mark would be reconciled with Paul (2 Tim 4:11). Mark would later write one of the four Gospels. How have you been discouraged when someone abandoned you in God's work? How have you been encouraged by someone believing in you and giving you a second chance?

Q: (vv.14-31) Paul and his companions went to another city, into the synagogue, and was able to share a message with the Jews there. (Knowing his Jewish audience) Paul begins his gospel message, tracing Israel's history from Egypt to Jesus. What are some key episodes he mentions?

(vv.16-19) _____

(vv.20-22) _____

(vv.23-25) _____

(vv.26-31) _____

Q: (vv.32-37) Why is Jesus' Resurrection so key to Paul's message (and to our eternal hope as Christ followers today)?

Q: (vv.38-39) How does Paul show the people how they can find forgiveness and salvation from sin and eternal death?
