

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 14:21-28

Media Reference Number SM - 195

TITLE:

“THE GOSPEL MINISTER”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

A Year has passed since Paul & Barnabas set out to spread the Gospel

The Gospel (or Good News) Minister to the World -
Is a Missionary

What is a Missions Work?

- *Mission work is not to build hospitals,*
- *Mission work is not to improve the standard of living,*
- *Mission work is not to feed the hungry,*

Jesus Gave the Protocol

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world
and preach the gospel to every creature.

Missions!!!

A Missions-Minded Ministry.... is any church that loves Jesus Christ...
Because Jesus desires that His Gospel be preached to all mankind!

Who are Missionaries?

&

What are they to do?

It is God's hatred of sin and His love for you,
that caused Him to send His Son



**If God hates sin,
We are to hate sin.**



**If God sent His Son into the World,
Then We are to send His Son into the World**

1.) The Gospel Minister.... *Proclaims*

vv. 21

Verse 21

“To that City... Derbe”

Derbe was the Pivotal Point of the Journey!

The Missionaries Chief Calling

- #1/4, To Preach to the lost
- #2/4, To Teach the saved

(1) Preach, *Proclaim, Evangelize*

To preach is to evangelize. Announce the News.
All missionaries are to be evangelistic at heart

The Word Preach, **Proclaim, Evangelize** is used 55 times in the New Testament
as a ‘verb’

an action of the believer {a non-spectator}

Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered (that's all the believers
except the apostles) went everywhere **preaching** the word.

Acts 5:40-42

and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they **should not speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go. :41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. :42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease **teaching** and **preaching** (evangelizing) Jesus as the Christ.

(2) Made Many Disciples

* *GRK Made matheteuo (math-ayt-yoo'-o)*

to become a pupil, to teach, to enroll in school
as a scholar (to reproduce, an assembly)

How Do We Make Disciples?

This is Shocking to Some

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and **make (reproduce) disciples** of all the nations,..... **(1) baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,:20 **(2) "teaching** them to observe all things that I have **commanded you**;

By Baptizing and By Teaching

Baptizing Them In Water (it's a witness to the world)

- You Do Not Have to be Baptized to go to heaven
- But you do need to be baptized to be a disciple

Baptism is an Initial Step in Obedience
It is itself Evangelistic

You Need to Be Baptized

showing your remission of sin

Teaching them to observe (to obey, to keep)
ALL that I have commanded You

What Did He Command ?

The First Works;

Love God, Be in Study, Be in Prayer, Be in Fellowship

Missions work is a “Hands On” & “Hands Out” type of ministry
It’s to be the spiritual “duplication” of what God has already done in us.

**It’s Spring Time,
reproduction is in effect**

Verse 21b

Paul’s Pathos (Passion) to Return for his love for the Church compelled him to return to those young believers in each (hostile) city.

A True Pastoral Heart

(A) Preach, Proclaim (B) Make Disciples

(C) Strengthen those already saved (the Disciples)

2.) The Gospel Minister Encourages vv. 22

- #3/4, To Encourage them to Continue on (all of us together)

Verse 22a

Strengthening (*how?*) by exhortation/encouraging

- * **Strengthening** **episterizo (ep-ee-stay-rid'-zo)**
to bring further support, to prop up,
to add to the work, to reestablish, to encourage

The Work of the Ministry is to 'Prop Up'
Until they are able to 'Prop Up' others...

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors/teachers, :12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, :13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Christian Ministry is Designed
for this Purpose

- All of us need further instruction
- Some needed reestablishing

Personally,

I Love to see People 'Reused'

Critical, Sinister, Judgmental, Burn Out

Strengthening by encouraging to...

A.) continue (*keep a forward movement*) in the faith

Continuance is proof of true Christian faith

“Abiding” In the Lord

John 15

How Do We Do That...

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
The More Bible you take in, the more your faith will grow

Our Bible intake must be mixed with Action.

**You can Hear Bible Programs, Cassette Tapes and Sermons...But are they producing....
“faith”**

James Defines Faith As An ‘Active’

Here at Calvary

**We need to be asking our brothers and sisters -
What is God doing in your life ?**

Hebrews 4:2

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Verse 22b

Strengthening (*how?*) by exhortation/encouraging

B.) Preparing Them For Adversity

* *Tribulation(s)* 2347 *thlipsis (thlip'-sis)*
affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, pressure, as in cooker

The Meaning In The Original is that **"it is through tribulation that we realize the kingdom"**

**Jesus said that
"Tribulation" exposes the character of the heart in Matthew 13**

Trials & Tribulations = Mature Believers

John 16:33
**"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

"We Must"

Not we might, may, or try your best to escape but

"We Must"

A letter this week from someone here. A husband who lost His Wife, His Home...
Jesus, His children & The Church is what's left...

He's Never been closer to Jesus

2 Timothy 3:12
Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

How do We "triumph" over the tribulations of life?

#1 Recognize That There Is A Purpose For It

Not of punishment, not of discipline
But for preparation

Jesus Said;

Matthew 28:20b

and **lo**, I am **with you** always, even to the **end of the world.**"

2 Corinthians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, :4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

So We Can Relate to One Another
the Faithfulness of God !!!

Paul & Barnabas are not coming from a padded office. This is coming from a man who knows that a Christian can take a lickin' and keep on tickin' because the Gospel is Powerful !!!

Remember Christian

Nothing comes into your life **without** your Father knowing all about, from that splinter in your finger to the death of your child - He Knows and He knows what's best for you.... Trust Him

Trials & Tribulations make you long for heaven.

- Come Quickly Lord Jesus !!!

Romans 8:18

For I **reckon** that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the **inward man is being renewed** day by day. :17 For **our light affliction**, which is but for a **moment**, is working for us a **far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**,

outward man is perishing,..... inward man is being renewed
a moment,..... far more exceeding
our light affliction,..... eternal weight of glory

#2 Realize That They Are Not New

Matthew 5:11

"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. :12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#3 Rejoice In Knowing The Lord

John 15:18

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. :19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

(For righteousness sake)

A Prescription for a Tough Day

Psalm 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the
righteous, but the LORD *delivers (preserve through or rescue out of) him out of* them all.

Philippians 1:29

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

- You can be a Christian going to heaven
 - You can be a Christian going to church
- But until you are a Christian who has experienced some sort of suffering, affliction, tribulation, you will be shallow

Suffering Drives Me Towards the Bible

#3 Rest In the Fact That The Lord is in Control

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

1 Peter 1:6

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 1 Pet 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Minister is to derive joy from seeing those around him growing deeper, stronger, able and eventually broader,

This is a Pulse of a Health Ministry

- People are coming to faith in Jesus
- People are being Baptized
- The People are being Taught
- There is Tribulation, affliction, Opposition
- The people are freed up to seek the Lord
- They are given the opportunity to serve
- The fruit of the Spirit will be present
- Their witness will be glorifying to God
- They will worship church (*excited about worship, it's a thankful church*)

3.) The Gospel Minister Serves vv. 23-28

- #4/4, To Lead the disciples
- (D) Selects Leaders

This is a difficult portion to Teach On
The believers were all new converts to Christianity

Verse 23

* appointed - The word means to stretch out the hand, to vote.

Acts 6:3

"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

In Contrast, These are Pastoral Verses of Warning;

1 Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily,.

1 Timothy 3:6

not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Don't Confuse

the Ministry of the Elder with that of the Pastor

(Originally, a Jewish ministry)

The Eldership is not a gifted ministry in N.T. Theology
the elders will possess gifts (helps, governments etc.) and they are trained to manage
the church

The Pastorship is a gifted Ministry Listed in Scripture

In much of Denominational Theology

The Elder is the Bishop is the Overseer is the Pastor
and that's not what the Bible teaches...

The Elders are to maintain the church and perform the duties that free up the Pastor to
fulfill His Call, The Pastor is to Pray and Study Acts 6:4

This Church is blessed with 'Elders' all over this Place

You People here, are the elders of this work....

Never Say

Jack's Church, Chuck's Church, Raul's Church

Verse 23b

The Goal of Every Ministry is to...
“Commended them to the Lord”

* **Commended** **paratithemi** (par-at-ith'-ay-mee)
to place alongside, to deposit (as with a trust or for protection)

The Gospel Minister

To have brought them to the Lord
To have taught them of the Lord
and To have left them in the Lord

Don't hang on to the Sheep (they're not yours to begin with)

Verse 24-28

You are the Most wonderful People I have ever known, you are the most precious church I have ever experienced...

You are The Gospel Minister,

it's you who dedicated to the Lord in 1993 \$62,000.00 to missions

It's you who dedicated to the Lord in 1994 \$80,000.00 to missions

It's you - You're the Gospel Minister !!!