

Acts, Part 14

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 8/5/20

Introduction Summary

In this lesson we will study the ministry of the apostle's office. We will discover the value in following only God's commands. Then we will see how it is vital for ministers to be loyal to their spiritual father and for all Christians to stay where they are planted until or unless the Lord says otherwise.

- I. **Acts 14:1:** These *Greeks* are *Greek speaking Jews*.
 - A. **Acts 14:2:** *Gentiles* (Gk. *ethnos*) means *ethnicity*.
 - B. **Acts 14:3:** *Grace* (Gk. *charis*), in this verse, means the *Word of God*.
- II. **Acts 14:4:** This is the first time we see them called apostles. A person can have multiple callings (1 Tim. 2:7).
 - A. God calls people; people don't call other people (Rom. 1:1).
 - 1. *In particular* means *everyone has a specific call* (1 Cor. 12:27).
 - 2. God set them in the church.
 - 3. *First* does not mean *superior* to other ministers. It means to begin a work (1 Cor. 12:28).
 - B. Ministry gifts have a specific purpose (Eph. 4:11).
 - 1. The purpose is to perfect, furnish equip the saints to carry out the mission.
 - 2. The purpose is to edify (build up, encourage) the body of Christ.
 - C. God called Paul to minister the gospel (Eph. 3:1-8).
- III. An apostolic ministry plants new works in many locations (1 Cor. 3:5-6).
 - A. Word of Faith began opening churches in multiple cities in the U.S.
 - 1. It was new at that time, a teaching ministry.
 - 2. Plant means start something fresh.
 - 3. Every church has a specific mission. People are sent to fit that mission. If the pastor changes, the mission doesn't change.
 - B. Apollos' job was to build on what Paul had planted.
- IV. We all work with God and do what He says (1 Cor. 3:8-10).

- A. *According* (Gk. *kata*) means *after the manner of* God's grace.
 - B. A *masterbuilder* is an *architect*. God made Paul an architect.
 - C. Apostles and prophets laid foundations, but Jesus holds it together (Eph. 2:19-20).
- V. A minister that takes over a church must continue that mission (1 Cor. 3:10-11).
 - A. Beware how you build.
 - B. Spiritual sons/daughters are to continue the mission and the teaching on which their ministries were established (1 Cor. 4:14-17).
- VI. A congregation with a pastor that is an apostle should pray over that mission.
 - A. WOFICC's mission is to plant works in Europe and Africa.
 - B. Our mission is to replace what has been lost, and raise up ministries.
- VII. Motive is key (1 Cor. 3:11-15).
 - A. The Holy Ghost is in you and leading you (1 Cor. 3:16).
 - B. You have to take care of your body (1 Cor. 3:17-18).
- VIII. Signs and wonders follow believers, not just ministers (Mark 16:15-20).
 - A. Mark 16:15 means to go where God directs you to go.
 - B. The Lord sent you to WOF to help people in other cities and nations.
 - C. The Lord confirms, not the people, but the Word, with signs following.
 - D. You have a Light in you to help deliver the captives from satan's grip.
- IX. Christians should do the work of God in their daily life, and then go to church to be refilled and encouraged.
 - A. Christians don't just leave a church.
 - B. Christians should ask the Lord, to get His will on what they should do.
 - C. A pastor should be loyal to the apostle that planted their church.
- X. There was an explosive move of God in the 1980s and racial strife tried to stop it. My spiritual father is a white man. The black pastors separated themselves from him and told me to do so, as well. I did not. As a result, I was black-balled and am still black-balled today from certain circles. As a result, many of them fell upon bad times. But, we're 41 years old and going strong. Don't let satan stop your call and stop your anointing. Stay connected to God.

Closing Summary

We have seen the effects of the apostle's office and the role it plays in planting works throughout the world. The key thing to remember is that the purpose of strife is to stop the work of God. So, don't let it in. Walk in love and remain faithful in the place God has planted you. When you do, you will be blessed beyond what you could imagine.