

Acts, Part 15

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 8/12/20

Introduction Summary

Paul, the worker, is an example of how the church should be in times like these. He had a mission from the Lord Jesus Christ, and he didn't let anything stop him from accomplishing it. As we follow his example, by telling everyone about the gospel of Jesus, we will fulfill our purpose of being the salt of the earth.

- I. **Acts 14:1:1-3:** Paul and Barnabas continued to preach in a hostile city.
- II. **Acts 14:4:** Signs and wonders do not make people believe.
 - A. Faith doesn't come by seeing. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
 - B. We believe because it is written in the Bible.
- III. **Acts 14:5:** Satan affects the minds of those who refuse to believe.
 - A. Persecution came because of the Word (Mark 4:13).
 - B. Affliction came because the Word was going forth (Mark 4:17).
 - C. Affliction is people to come against you because of the Word.
 - D. When you know it's because of the Word, you respond accordingly.
 - E. When you know it's the devil motivating people, you can focus on the root cause and not the person (1 Pet. 5:7; James 4:7; John 10:10).
- IV. **Acts 14:6-7:** When you share the gospel with other people, satan will test you.
 - A. Paul preached the gospel (Gal 3:6).
 - B. Salvation would come through Abraham's seed (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:8).
 - C. That seed is Jesus Christ (Mat. 1:1).
 - D. You are Abraham's seed (Gal. 3:29; 2 Cor. 5:21).
 - E. Satan binds people. Jesus sets them free (Luke 13:16).
- V. **Acts 14:8-11:** Paul perceived the man had faith to be healed.
- VI. **Acts 14:12-17:** Barnabas and Paul told them "we also are men of like passions with you" and that they should turn from idols and worship the living God.
- VII. **Acts 14:18-19:** Certain Jews stoned Paul to death (2 Cor. 11:24-25).
 - A. Paul refers to being stoned (2 Cor. 11:24-25).
 - B. What happened when he died (2 Cor. 12:1-7)?
 1. The third heaven is where God is.

2. He didn't know where he was, in his body or outside his body.
3. Paradise is another word for Heaven.
4. Paul is speaking of himself.
5. He saw and heard things that were difficult to communicate.

VIII. **Acts 14:19-20:** Paul got up from the dead.

- A. A pastor from New York called me to tell me his daughter had died. ***The Lord told me*** to tell him to stand at the foot of the bed and call her back. He obeyed and his daughter came back to life. She was pregnant and both she and the baby were totally fine. A month later I spoke to the young woman. She was angry at her father for calling her back, because she was in a beautiful place called heaven. She said Jesus pulled back a curtain and she saw her father calling her back. So she had to return to her body.
- B. You are not a color. You are a spirit being.
- C. Death has no sting, to the believer (1 Cor. 15:55).

IX. **Acts 14:20:** Paul immediately revives and finishes his mission (Eph. 6:10-16).

X. **Acts 14:21-23:** Focused on doing God's will, they returned to the place where he was stoned.

XI. **Acts 14:24-26:** The grace of God is an active force; it is the work of God.

XII. Paul's attitude was to do God's will regardless of persecution.

XIII. In the United States of America, today, freedom of religion is being attacked, i.e. California.

- A. There is an attack on our first amendment rights.
- B. It starts little by little.
- C. Will there be push-back if the church can't meet, sing or worship?
- D. The church must wake up.
 1. Satan is trying to get the church to shut their mouths.
 2. So many want to come to America, because we are free and prosperous.
- E. Read the Word first to find the truth, and then pray accordingly.
- F. When you know the truth, you know what to do in prayer.
 1. Attack the devil in prayer.
 2. Know who you are and who you represent in this earth (2 Cor. 5:20).
 3. We are the salt of the earth (Mat. 5:13).

Closing Summary

Paul was on a mission to complete the work God called him to. He didn't let persecution stop him. We, in America, must stay focused on winning the lost to Jesus Christ. When we recognize that it is Satan keeping up division and turmoil, we can deal with that in prayer and get victory by being the salt of the earth.