

Acts # 57

“Israel’s History Reminded”

Acts 13:6-22

The word for *wanted to hear* conveys an intense desire and it’s very important because it indicates to some extent that this man, Sergius Paulus, some time ago reached the point of God-consciousness and he was positive, so God is responsible to get the Gospel to him and he’s going to hear it and a positive response at God-consciousness will become a positive response at the point of Gospel hearing.

But there’s a spiritual battle going on here due to the angelic dispute.

So, we have Paul filled with the Holy Spirit and Elymas filled with lies and cheating.

Before the Gospel can be made clear to Sergius Paulus, the false teacher with his false teaching must be exposed and condemned through divine authority.

It’s the Word of God which is alive and powerful, not the miracle of blindness!

Miracles were performed regularly but people did not believe.

The thing that brought this man around was information, Bible information.

The power of the Gospel is not in miracles, the power of the Gospel is in the Word of God itself.

Therefore it was the message which reached this man, not the wonderous miracle.

It is impossible to live the Christian life and carry around in our minds, fear of anything, worry and anxiety about anything or any of the other mental attitude sins which completely disorient us as far as the plan of God is concerned.

John Mark’s failure could have destroyed him except for one thing: his humble recovery and how he again went out in the Lord’s service.

He was under the influence of human viewpoint as seen in his fear which only produces self-induced misery.

This is Paul’s way of recognizing that in Antioch of Pisidia there are definitely those who are ready to be saved, those who have had a positive response at the point of God-consciousness.

This always expresses itself in a desire to know God.

All God-consciousness is achieved by human thinking and there is no such thing as a normal member of the human race who cannot reach God-consciousness.

Paul was aware that there were men in that area who were ready to be saved; “*listen to me*” simply means pay careful attention.

In eternity past, the omniscience of God knew that Abraham would believe but Nahor would not; Isaac would believe but Ishmael would not; Jacob would believe but Esau would not.

Knowing this, God had a plan which in the Old Testament called for the ancestors of these

three to be the custodians of the Word of God.

The God of the people of Israel is Jesus Christ, so Paul is saying: Jesus Christ Himself chose our ancestors—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and they were born again.

Israel was founded on regeneration, therefore it was obvious that God wanted every Jew in Antioch to believe in Jesus Christ and that's the true heritage of Israel, not the Mosaic law; the true heritage of Israel is the four unconditional covenants designed for born again believers only.

Samuel the prophet was the last of the judges and the first of a new type of minister called the prophet who often had the gift of prophecy but not necessarily the office of prophet.

During this period, there was great apostasy when God raised up judges who were rulers, even dictators and the word is sometimes used in Hebrew for a king, to carry the Jews through this period.

In a time of apostasy, God had to raise up special men to hold the situation together, the people could not do it.

When they expressed their desire to be like other nations, they indicated their lack of capacity for love; their lack of ability to respond to the love of God and their disorientation to grace and to the plan of God.