

045 - Salvation to the Ends of the Earth - Acts 13:44-52 2012-11-11

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 16:23-25a

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Sermon: "Salvation to the Ends of the Earth" Acts 13:44-52

Benediction: Psalm 67:7

I. There Was a Great Swell of Interest in the Word of God (44) What were they so eager to hear?

A. To some extent the actual Word of God!

Through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness of sins (38)

By Him everyone who believes is justified, which could not be done by the law of Moses (39)

B. To some extent just the latest, greatest thing

C. To some extent just the human desire to hear from God

II. The Leaders of the Old Religion Opposed The Missionaries Who Were Speaking the Word of God (45)

A. Why did they oppose them? They were filled with zeal or jealousy.

1. the Greek word is exactly "zeal," *zelos*

2. now, to be filled with zeal is good, if you are right in what you are zealous about

-the Lord Jesus had thrown the moneychangers out of the temple, in fulfillment of the Old Testament idea, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

3. but it very wrong to be zealous when you are in the wrong

*Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (2) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (3) For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

B. What did they do to oppose them?

1. contradicted Greek *anti lego* against + to lay forth or lay down

2. blasphemed Greek *blasphemeo* to vilify

C. APPLICATION

1. understand that any time there is an old, established religion that is based on God's revelation, but has become highly corrupt, this same scenario will be played out

a. here it was the Jewish Old Covenant religion

b. other times and places it is the Roman Catholic religion

c. other times and places it is one of the Protestant denominations

d. sadly, in our time and place even the Southern Baptist religion is in many cases so corrupt that it contradicts and blasphemes the Word of God and those who preach it

2. let us interpret our past experiences by this
3. let us anticipate our future experiences by this

### III. The Missionaries Remained Firm in Their Commitment to Preaching the Word of the Lord (46-47)

- A. Paul and Barnabas grew bold
- B. They analyzed the Jewish religious response
  1. it was necessary to speak the word of God to you first
  2. you reject it
  3. you judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life
- C. They announced their next move: they would keep preaching!
  1. they would turn to the Gentiles
  2. this is what God had commanded them
  3. the word of God would be a light to the gentiles
  4. and salvation to the ends of the earth

### IV. The Word of the Lord Spread (48-49)

- A. The gentiles in general were glad, and glorified the word
- B. The elect believed the word
- C. The word was spread throughout the whole region

### V. To Suppress the Word of God, the Leaders of the Old, Corrupt Religion Turned to the Force of the Government (50)

- A. Isn't this what we see time and again in the Bible?
- B. Isn't this what the Lord Jesus Himself warned us about?
- C. See the Jews' method (50)

### VI. The Missionaries Went On to Preach the Word of God Elsewhere (51)

- A. The Lord grants them freedom to move on (51a)
  1. when you love people, and try to live and speak the Word of God to them, but they contradict and blaspheme, it is heart-rending
  2. the Lord's command to shake the dust off yourself and move on is much-needed mercy from Him
- B. They travelled on to the next large city (51b)
- C. APPLICATION: This is not defeat---this is progress!

### VII. The New Church prospered (52)

- A. They were filled with joy
- B. They were filled with the Holy Spirit
- C. APPLICATION
  1. If our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is contradicted; and if we are blasphemed, vilified, we will be tempted to be filled with anger, sorrow, even despair; let us instead ready our hearts now, so that if this happens, we will instead be filled with joy! The Lord Jesus said, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad!"

For next week, 2012-11-18: "Fruitful Seasons" Acts 14:1-17