

## **Appropriate Gratitude**

1. Praise to idols.

2. Praise to human beings.

3. Praise to Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas are praised for the healing of the disabled man from birth by those who know not God and so offered idols to them. This was completely unacceptable to God and was brought the attention to all present by the Lord's ambassadors, Paul and Barnabas. As children of God, it is imperative for us to praise the One from Whom all blessings flow!

## I Timothy 4:14

<sup>14</sup> “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude.”

## Acts 14: 8 – 18

<sup>8</sup> In Lystra a man was sitting whose feet were incapacitated. *He had been* disabled from his mother’s womb, and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> This man was listening to Paul as he spoke. *Paul* looked at him intently and saw that he had faith to be made well, <sup>10</sup> and he said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet!” And *the man* leaped up and *began* to walk. <sup>11</sup> When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have become like men and have come down to us!” <sup>12</sup> And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, since he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> Moreover, the priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard *about it*, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out <sup>15</sup> and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men, of the same nature as you, preaching the gospel to you, to turn from these useless things to a living God, who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THEM. <sup>16</sup> In past generations He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; <sup>17</sup> yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” <sup>18</sup> And *even by* saying these things, *only with* difficulty did they restrain the crowds from offering sacrifices to them.

## Acts—Series Overview

### ***The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power***

*Acts* records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

To whom do I give thanks in ALL things? Jesus Christ should be the complete focus of our affection and gratitude. It is only through the grace of Christ that we can receive all things with praise to Him.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## **Sunday Morning**

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Luke 17:11-19** DISCUSS, God uses all things (including our disbelief) to accomplish His purposes. How does God use His people's ignorance to fulfill His promise? How does His sovereignty give us comfort? How are you giving thanks to Him and Him alone? Be specific. PRAY "Risen Lord, thank You for conquering death. Enable us to joyfully submit to Your holy rule and reign over all things!"

## **Sunday Evening**

**Young Adults' Fellowship** at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

## **Monday**

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Luke 17:11-19; Isaiah 42:8**. DISCUSS, How does giving praise to idols distress our God? Do we have any secret idols? How do I recognize when I have an idol? What steps do I take to be sure I do not have any idols? PRAY, "Jesus, as Your Kingdom expands according to Your proclamation, teach us to acknowledge You as the Sovereign over all things!"

## **Tuesday**

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Ruth 2:10**. DISCUSS, How has Christ revealed an idol to me? How can loyalty to each other become idolatrous? What matters when judging character? PRAY, "Jesus, we Praise You for Your great love for Your people. Teach us to trust and obey You all our days."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Colossians 1:11-12, 3:15-17**. DISCUSS, How does a rebellious human being receive pardon from King Jesus? How does a traitor become a child of God? How is this the same or different for Gentiles/Jews? PRAY, “Lord Jesus, we thank You for conquering death for us.”

### Thursday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; I Corinthians 15:57, II Corinthians 9:15**. DISCUSS, What is the difference between praising God and man? Can I express my thankfulness for a human being without giving God the glory? What makes the difference? PRAY, “Jesus, You are our elder brother if by faith we respond to You with joy. Enable us to obey You absolutely with great joy and give praise appropriately.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; I Chronicles 16:8; Psalm 50:14-15**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if by God’s grace you are able to praise the King! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## Psalm 50:14 – 15

- <sup>14</sup> Offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
And pay your vows to the Most High;  
<sup>15</sup> Call upon Me on the day of trouble;  
I will rescue you, and you will honor Me.”