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Acts 16 beginning in verse 35, these are god's words. And when it was day, the magistrate sent the officer saying, What those men go. So the keeper of the prison reported, these words to Paul saying, the magistrates have sent to let you go now, therefore, depart and to go in.

Peace. But paul said to them, They have beaten us openly. Uncondemned romans. And have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No, indeed, let them come themselves and get us out. When the officers told these words to the magistrates and they were afraid, When they heard that they were romans.

When they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, asked them to depart from the city. So, they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia. And when they had seen the brethren, They encourage them. And departed. Now, when they had passed through amhipolis and the pollinia that came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the jews.

Then paul in his custom was went into them and for three, sabbaths reasoned with them from the scriptures. Explaining and demonstrating. That the christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead. And saying. This jesus whom i preach to you, is the christ. And some of them were persuaded.

And a great multitude at the devout greeks, and not a few of the leading. Women joined paul and silas. But the Jews who were not persuaded. Becoming envious. Took some of the evil men from the marketplace and gathering a mob set all the city in an uproar. An attack, the house of jason and sought to bring them into the people.

When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city crying out. He's who have turned the world upside down. Have come here, too. Jason has harbored them. And these are all contacting contrary to the degrees of caesar. Saying there's another king jesus.

And they troubled the crown and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had taken security from jason and the rest, They let them go. Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the jews.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica and that they received the word with alreadyness. And, Search the scriptures daily to find it. Whether these things were so Therefore, many of them believed. And also not a few of the greeks prominent women, as well as men. But when the Jews from Thessalonika, Learned that the word of god was preached by paul at maria.

They came there also and stirred up the crowds. Then immediately the brethren sent pull away to go to the sea. But both silos and Timothy remained there. So those who conducted paul brought him to Athens, And receiving a command for silos and Timothy to come to him with all speed.

They departed. So for the reading of gods inspired and inherent word. Is our joy to know? That he blesses to us the preaching. Of it. Please be seated.

The count of the planting of the church in Philippi. Is a little bit longer than Thessalonica and Berea. Uh, it seems even longer to us because we spent Two weeks in the first part of it but it's really not that long. Um, And upon it heals do come these Too much shorter accounts.

In rapid fire sort of fashion, the lord does this in various places in his word, For instance, and some of the accounts of the judges. He gives us what happened with the judges and it seems almost formulaic. The the people suffer and then they cry out and then God hears them, he sends a judge and the judge delivers them.

And then the judge dies and the people rebell against god. And then you, you know, wash rinse and repeat. We see this in some places with The pace at which evil kings during the kingdom, period, and especially the divided. Um, Well, i guess the e-bookings were the divided, well, salt, but during the divided kingdom period, Where you have rapid fire series of accounts in year such and such.

Yeah. Of the king and the other part of the kingdom. So, and so became king, and he reigned forever many years and whatever place. And his mom was whatever pagan. Or, you know, usually With, with the evil kings and he did evil in the side. He always and bad things happened to him for it, but obviously there was no repentance and all the other stuff about all the successes that he thought he had when he was alive and that he would note be known for in secular history.

As don't actually matter. You can go read about them in another book. And the lord killed him. And then you have, you know, a bunch of those in a row. And what is the lord often doing there he is by the The brevity and the rapidity of giving us the various accounts, he is allowing us to see helping us by his By his spirit, to see the things that those events or rains or people had in common so that we can have driven home.

What he is saying, really matters and what God pays attention to and in in those circumstances and what man should pay attention to even though, We do not. Well he does something similar here in act 16 with the planting of churches, he gives us the planting of three churches and rapid fire with several things in common.

And with those things in common, there are a couple things that seem not to be in common but as well, here they are. They are likenesses. As much as they are. As much as they are differences, in order that we may see. Uh, some of the common marks. Uh, some of the indications of a genuine work of god, the holy spirit.

Some of the indications of a genuine evangelistic or church planting or missionary work, those are all. Those are all the same thing. A church plant a genuine church plant is and of genuinely evangelistic work. If it's not primarily by evangelism. Well then yeah, man. May call it a church plant.

That's not what's actually happening there. Um if someone is doing mission work and they're not church planting by evangelism, man may call it mission work but that's not actually what that is. What that is either. So what are the symptoms that he That he presents here. The things that the work and philippai the work in Thessalonica, the working berea have in common and there are many and we could probably expand it out.

Even from the outline, you could probably expand it out to more than three but we have We hope to understand and hear them proclaimed from the text under these three headings that

they have in common first, the preaching of christ from the scriptures, the preaching of christ from the scriptures and second place, the persuasive work of the spirit.

That a genuine. Planting of a church establishing of a church by god. The holy spirit has in the first place to preaching of christ from the scriptures and the second place, the persuasive work of the spirit that it is. God, the holy spirit who brings people to faith through these through this preaching.

And then in the third place, the persecuting response of the world. The persecuting response of those who are not persuaded. By the spirit. Um, So, The preaching of christ from the word, first, of all, if you have been working on or have succeeded in In committing to memory the memory verse this week then you are familiar with versus two and three then paul as his custom was you know, just in case you missed that the holy spirit is here, giving us rapid fire.

Three plantings of three churches that have things in common. The holy Spirit says As his custom was notice that, this is a pattern that this is a principle that this is a habit. In other places. The apostle Paul himself. Will say we don't have any other custom nor do any of the other churches.

And the implication is that what is being established here by the pattern is something that is normative and principal not. Not just a oh, in isn't it interesting the paul did it that way. I'm so glad that we've become clever enough to embrace evangelistic diversity. Um, Yeah, that was something that sadly in a napark denomination and in which i was ordained for 15 years.

Some of the most famous and that should already be a red flag and an alarm bells for you. Some of the most famous pastors would write to about how wonderful it was that that our denomination was so big that. It could not just big like numerically, although that was a wicked pride satanic problem, two.

But so broad theologically and ministerially that we could have so many different types of worship and so many different approaches to church planting and and that, you know, this brought god, great glory that he would work in all of these different ways. No, Then paul as his custom was, Uh went into them and for three, sabbaths reasoned with them from the scripture.

Now notice that the word the that is the same word for sabbath or week and here, they've chosen to translate it, sabbath the phrase or the word first day of He doesn't appear here. Of. So it's not the first day sabbath that he's talking about, it's not the lord's day.

The, the new sort of sabbath that arose upon the resurrection. Of the lord jesus christ. He's talking about the the seventh day of the week, when the Jews were gathered in their synagogues, that was one of the advantages of being in Thessalonica, over against fellow pi, there was actually a synagogue there.

And so as those custom was he, he goes there in order to do what To reason with them from the scriptures. And he's not just reasoning, he's not just saying let's have a a conversation. I, you know, i'd like to have dialogue. Certainly those things happen and are implied as he reasons with them from the scriptures explaining and demonstrating.

Okay, there is There is. A bold assertion of truth here that the christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead and saying. This jesus whom i preach to you is the christ. So If it's not the word, it's not evangelism. There was this. This awful trend, i'm sure it's still.

Happens. But i haven't seen the t-shirts in a while. Praise god as things go out of style. When i was in seminary. Young seminary type, guys. I hope we're actually converted and that's why

they were so excited. Not because they figured out that there was a career that you could fake, it not work hard and people would pat you on the back for it, and you get paid a professional wage.

But they would wear t-shirts that said things like preach the gospel and at all times. And if necessary use words Uh, that is an absolutely ridiculous idea. It'd be like if you went around wearing a t-shirt that said, feed people at all times. And if necessary use food, No.

Uh, the preaching of the preaching of the gospel evangelism is the proclaiming from the scriptures that god became a man, and his name is jesus, the christ, and he has lived, and died and risen again, as was prophesied by the scriptures. Because god is saving sinners and you must turn from your sin and believe in him for he alone in a tone for your sin and be your righteousness, and you will be saved, that's evangelism.

It always has words. And so preaching of christ from the word was the custom of the apostle. We see that in Thessalonica. We see that in Berea, The inverse 11. The marines are. Born of goodness or begotten of goodness. We'll get there in a moment. I know you're if you have the nuking james it says bear-minded.

These were More. Fair-minded than those in Thessalonica and that they received the word. Who with alreadyness? And search the scriptures, daily etc. So the word again, is the ministry. There, when paul and silas go as is their custom. We know from verse 2 to read into verse 10, Into the synagogue.

And that's of course, what makes the jews in Thessalonica, the ones who didn't respond to the preaching of the gospel. So upset, that they decide to take a road trip to Berea because they are equal opportunity, zealous persecutors. And apparently the, you know, there was not enough opposition in berea.

So they come in verse 13. When the Jews from desolanika learned that the word of god was preached by paul at berea. They came there also. And stirred up the cross. And so it's the the same pattern. He preaches the word of god. This was true also in Philippi, in our In our rapid fire tour of the second missionary journey.

The second church planting evangelism journey of the apostle. Paul, in the book of Acts, we saw that back in verses 13, 14 on the sabbath day. Again, that was The seventh day of the week, we went out to the up went out of the city to the riverside, you remember?

Because there's no synagogue. Where prayer was customarily made and we sat down and spoke To the women who met there. Those, you know, not only was there not a synagogue, you remember this, of course or even those who are gathered or just Predominantly women. We know that the only one who responds as a woman.

Um, but is speaking. And it's speaking that the lord uses in them. Verse 14, of course, the lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by paul and then when god is working in the heart of Uh, Of the philippian jailer and he Not only is, Is broken undone.

By the fact that all the men are there when he comes in, in verse 29, then we need brings them out in verse 30. And he says, sirs, what must i do to be saved and he asks, uh, the individual question, but he's ahead of a household as they can see, because they are in a house.

And so they, they give the covenantal answer to the individual question. Believe in the lord jesus christ, and you will be saved you and your household. So there's this expectation that

god will not only say, save him but his household. So what do they do? Verse 32, then they spoke the word of the lord.

To him and to all. Who are in his house. This is what all true evangelism true church. Planting true church. True mission work has in common the preaching of jesus christ from the scriptures. In fact, we saw this very early in the first missionary journey is worth remembering that this is a lesson that the spirit has been teaching us throughout the book.

Um, Back. In chapter 11. The it's actually not the missionary journey yet. It's the set. What is going to become the sending church? Verse 19. Now, those who are scattered after the persecute chapter 11 verse 19. Now, those who are scattered after the persecution of the rose, over Steven traveled as far as fincha cyprus and antioch preaching, the word preaching, the word to not, no one but Jews only.

So it's called preaching the word and verse 19, and i hope, hopefully you're remembering or you may be seeing at the end of verse 20 already, but you're remembering that the two are one. But some of the them were men from cypress and siren, who, when they had come to an antioch, spoke to the hellonists, preaching, the lord jesus.

And so preaching, the word to the jews is the same preaching that has a different object in verse 20 preaching to the hellness. Speaking to the hellness preaching, the lord jesus. In other words, preaching, the word is preaching jesus, and preaching, jesus is preaching the word. And if you're not doing both, then you're really doing neither.

Because jesus is god, the word. And he and the gospel that is a first importance. As paul reminds the Corinthians first corinthians 15. Is that jesus christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures. And that jesus christ has risen from the dead according to the scriptures. And so this is one of the One of the things that the holy spirit here is teaching us and reminding us is a mark.

Of every true church planting every true work of the holy spirit informing gathering growing a church. In church planting evangelism missions. Every church Will have from the scriptures christ proclaimed as crucified and risen. That will be the substance of their preaching. That will be their plan a and plan z.

Or alpha and omega. If you're a Greek speaker, that will be plan A to Z of how to grow the church. Preaching christ. From the scriptures, preaching the word. But, always preaching the word in connection with the lord, jesus christ, even when you preach the law, which you must preach, it's his word.

If it's his word and you don't preach it, then you are not really trusting Christ or preaching christ, are you But as we heard, In the sabbath school. This morning, don't be forgetful of christ when you preach the law. Because you're preaching that which has been kept perfectly in our place that it might be imputed to us and you're preaching that, which is promised to believer to have been fully worked out in us when he's done with his work.

And so you're preaching that which as a believer, you know, that god the holy spirit is currently working in you as he conformed you too, the lord jesus christ. And this removes entirely the burden of the law. It becomes a burden, the way sales. Are burdens to a ship or wings are burdensed to a bird mechanisms that god uses to produce in you that which is necessary.

If you hear the law and you think it's a burden that you're keeping you're a pharisee. And if you think you're the law and you think it's a burden, that no one should have to keep, you are an

antonymian and you reject the lord jesus christ. Therefore, The one symptom, the first symptom that we see here of all true church, planting church of angelism Uh, mission works.

Is preaching of christ from the scriptures preaching of christ from the word. The second thing that we see here is the persuasive work of the holy spirit. Now this at first looks like it's something that's a different between the churches and there's a build up here of that difference.

We begin in Philippi. No synagogue. You have to go out of the The city on the sabbath when they get out of the city. And there's the place where some Groping after god has been maintained and in god's mercy to them, but it's only among some women and they speak to women.

And yet of the women that are there, only one of these. Um, only one of these. Women responds and so, it's very, very narrow. It's not As it's going to be in Thessalonica and Berea. A question of how many Jews? In in Thessalonica, some of them responded in Berea.

Many of them responded in philippi, there weren't any of them to respond. And the the ones that they spoke to they got one response until they found that god had been gathering the elect in a jail. Uh, so that they could have their interests interest peaked by the admonishing of the word of christ that comes through the singing of psalms and hims and spiritual songs as they were being prayed and sung.

And god the holy spirit was giving to the prisoners to listen to them. Something that they hadn't generally had experienced of yet in phili had they And then, Right. And then they The philippian jailer's heart has been prepared. They don't know. Necessarily whether the household is saved, it leaves that hanging us, hanging for us in the text.

It only tells us that the jailer Believed and only tells us that the jailer about the jailers repentance and only tells us about the jailers baptism. Or not, the jewelers about it. It only tells us that the whole house was baptized and the whole house rejoice with the jailer in his joy but it's really small in philippi even even with the congregation of the prisoners and the jailer in his house and Lydia and her house when they get kicked out.

Of philippi. And they want to go say goodbye to the brethren. Well, You know, most of them are in in jail or the tailor's house, i just said goodbye to them when they were going away and the rest of them are Lydia's household. Is pretty small. Then you have a different response we move from the The the small church in this sequence to the medium church, Uh, paul reasons with them.

And then verse 4, some of them were persuaded and A great multitude of the devout greeks. And not a few of the leading women. Joined. Paul's joined, paul and silas. And so, this is actually a very large church, although the response of the jews is few but then you get to Uh, berea and the response is much bigger.

Verse 12. Therefore many of them believed. And also not a few of the greeks and prominent women, as well as men. Okay, so still a bunch of greeks. Is still some women. It's now we have men added but also a large number, many of the Jews. In fact, so many of the Jews that there weren't any enough, unconverted jews left to trouble.

The city they had to borrow unconverted Jews from Thessalonica. You know, how do you think the jews and Thessalonika that that were opposed to the gospel? How do you think they heard? Well, it was the few remaining straggling, unbelieving jews and berea. Who, you know, they couldn't find any like-mindedness from their.

Yeah, their recently converted. Uh, former Former church synagogue members as they yeah, as misery and hatred and bitterness loves company and this happens even you in our culture. If you've got the wicked, who hate the church and there's only a couple of them in a city and they want to stir up trouble.

What do they do? They, they go and they import those who are going to attack the church from other cities so that they can get them themselves enough. Of those who know how to stir up trouble. And of course, the Jews know how to stir up trouble. They know, where in the marketplace to find the evil men, to form the mob, to create the trouble.

Uh, see that in the passage. Um, But the response in Berea is much bigger. Because there's, there's many of the Jews being converted and it's, and it's not just leading women, but is leading men who are being converted in Berea. In, in addition to The not a few of the Greeks and so so there's some There's some difference here.

But the different responses actually shows the same. Commonality the same principle that is operating in all three places because what makes the difference The preparation of the heart. By God, the Holy Spirit. Like we heard about Lydia and Philip the Lord. Opened her heart to speak to heed the words that were spoken by Paul, that was the difference in Lydia.

And so, where do you think the extra noble-mindedness? And the this is where we're gonna, it says these were more. And then there's, there's a word here, you can ace. It's well it's a form of of eugenese, then those in Thessalonica. Now some of you who have done a little bit of dabbling and it's fine to do some dabbling.

Don't draw too many conclusions. And unless You're you're getting help from someone who's faithful. But have done some get dabbling in Greek. You're like you can ace that sounds a whole lot like monogonized. Monogonase is the, is the word that is invented in the New Testament, as far as we know, it doesn't appear anywhere else.

Except for, you know, people who are writing based on the New Testament means only begotten, you can hear a little bit Kinase Genesis and mono only And it's a wonderful work. The uniquely begotten. Son of God. None of you are Are the monobic monogamous. Of God, we're adopted to children of God.

Jesus is the only begotten. Of God. Well, eugeness attaches instead of the, the prefix only it, it attaches the the prefix for good. Uh, like eugenics, which isn't particularly good, but that's what they think it is. So that's why it's called that And it's eugeness. Begotten of good. Now, who's doing this beginning?

Who's begetting goodness? In Berea. It's the Holy Spirit, isn't it? And so you have a difference between Philippi and Berea and Thessalonica and Berea. But it's a difference that actually shows a commonality, and that is the ones who are genuinely saved the ones who end up gathered into a true church.

Are the ones that God, the Holy Spirit is regenerating. So that they will. Be persuaded. And that's what's happening, that's what's behind the word. Persuaded there in verse 4 and some of them were persuaded. Now, that's something that enables. Paul Silas and Timothy. To rejoice over all three works.

Is interesting that in this kind of rapid fire succession that we have and Acts chapter 16, you have? Philippi. Yeah, Thessalonica better Berea. Now that's the good one. But what do you

have in the course of the new testament as a whole? Think about the the new testament letters, philippi and Thessalonica.

Are some of the most commended praised congregations in the whole new testament. And when paul is praising tessalonica, In that letter, be good, if you keep a finger in first Thessalonians, Because we're going to come back. Lord, helping us to get to The third point will come back in the third point as well.

But listen to Listen to how the apostle talks to them about how that church was planted. Yeah, verse verse 2, we give thanks to god, always for you. Verse three, remembering without ceasing, your work of faith, labor of love, etc. Verse 4. Where did the? Where did the faith hope and love that expressed itself in work labor and patients from verse 3?

Where did the faith open love? Come from? Knowing beloved brethren. Your election by god. In other words, faith doesn't come except by the election of god and hope doesn't come except by the election of god and love doesn't come. Except by the election of god. And so when the spirit worked faith, hope and love in the sum who were persuaded and the multitude of the the greeks and And so forth when they saw that fruit, they said we found the elect You don't find the elect and preach to them.

You preach to them and you find out who are the elect. Because they believe. And because they've come to a sure hope and the lord jesus. And because they become full of the love of god, and the love of the brethren and the love of their neighbor. And it was worked out in their lives in working and laboring and being patient even under affliction.

And yeah, even more specifically he revisits, the idea in chapter 2 verse 13 for this reason, we also thank god without ceasing because when you received the word of god which you heard from us, you welcomed it, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of god.

Which also effectively works. And you, who believe. What's the second mark of a true church? A true church plant. A true evangelism. A true mission work. Is that the holy spirit persuades? Those who hear? That the word that they hear is not the word of man. It's the word of god.

And that's the word of god about god. It became a man. And that's not just how churches chart that's also how churches grow. You see if the church didn't start that way. Then you might have people who are learning how to cope better but, you know, therapists can do that.

You might have people who are learning how to be nicer. A whole lot of false religions that do that. You might, you might have people who Uh, you know, are getting better at stuff in life. But TED talks can do that. The true church is one. In which the word of god is preached.

And when it's heard, The people know by the work of god, the holy spirit in them. But it's not merely the words of a man. That it is the word of god. And that it's not just a, a theoretical abstraction a collection of ideas that they're assembling like a jigsaw puzzle.

But it's the word of god because they are the work of god. And that the god has convinced them that it's his work is actually working in with his word, his actually working in them. So if you know that about it people you can thanks to god for them.

You know, you guys did so well. To receive the preaching so well, Almost it is right to receive preaching in the right way, but for this reason, also we give thanks to god. Because he's the one who's giving. The recognition of his word. Is his? And so Thessalonica becomes one of the oh i just a disobeyed.

My own advice. And then leave my finger in there. Thessalonica becomes. Uh, one of the great missionary churches, antioch is the first great missionary sending church, they send great missionaries. Uh, thessalonica doesn't get as much press or isn't as big in our memory because they don't send paul and a barnabas and a silas, and a Timothy and a luke.

But they send people everywhere. Verse 6 of first thessalonians one, you became followers of us and of the lord, having received the word in much affliction with joy of the holy spirit so that you became examples to all in Macedonia. And Akaya, who believes So, where did these believers?

Paul's actually going to. Visit and preach in Macedonia nakaya. But we're From where do they hear for? From you? The word of the lord has sounded forth Not only in Macedonia and decaya, but also in every place your faith toward god has gone out so that we do not need to say anything.

And so they become one of the great missionary churches. This is a great help to us when we think about our own congregation, or if even, you don't have, you may not be called to the the teaching and preaching ministry of an elder, but you are called, if you're a parent, To the teaching, the bible teaching and evangelizing ministry of your children.

And every one of us is called to the speaking. The truth in love ministry with one another. That's one of the reasons for apostles. Prophets, elders and pastor teachers in Ephesians, chapter 4 is because every body part has a truth ministry. No longer walking in blindness like the Gentiles do but ministering the truth to to one another in love and not ministering the truth.

Like the like the display end caps at the now defunct. Lifeway, christian bookstores. Where, you know, you got, you know, 14 varieties of truth, and it's like, you know, being tossed to and fro and And if you have any sense about you, it makes you want to puke theologically.

No. Uh, god gives apostles prophets. Evangelists pastor teachers so that we can all preach the same truth. So we can minister to one another, the same truth But as we do this, ministering of the truth to whomever, the lord has called us to minister the truth to It's not a question of whether it's to question of to whom, if you're a believer, you have a truth ministry.

But as we do it, the knowledge that real ministry is not just the real gospel ministry is not just the preaching of christ from the word, but is a second mark of it. Is that it is made effectual by the persuading work of the holy spirit. Is that it frees you from so many things that plague?

People like me, people like your elders? Because we're still sinners and we're still fleshly. And so, we're tempted to do what we're tempted to launch into the work. And not spend a moment in prayer. It's possible to get out of the habit. Of praying as you begin in sermon preparation or god help us even sermon preaching.

You can lead the congregation in prayer and just speak words into the air that you have become very skilled at assembling and not actually be pleading with god that the holy spirit is about to work. But if you know that this is the only way that effectual work ever happens in evangelism more discipleship.

Then one of the applications is that The, the more, you know, it the more you are not just intellectually but existentially convinced of it, the more you pray, With your work. It's not just for pastors, it's for parents. Now, you might have a routine in your parenting where Where you whether it's, you know, at the family worship times or maybe you have a little one who can't have private worship yet and You know, you You bring them in at the beginning or end, probably end because you're starting before they get up.

Of your own private worship time and And you lead them in part of the routine. As you say, a prayer with the word. You can be very easily become routine. You can't it. Or maybe you have part as part of your discipline routine which i hope it is part of your.

I hope you have a discipline routine and then i hope it is a part of your discipline routine. That there's the word of god and not just the word of god with whatever it is. It has been broken. But the word of god with god's solution that they always hear that jesus christ and in all of the disciplining and that part of the routine is praying for the application of both parts of the word, you're even teaching them to pray.

But if you have a routine, it's easy for it to become just routine. And yet is this not a denial that god, the holy spirit is the only one who is going to make this effectual. And so, if the holy spirit is bringing home to our hearts even now what are we doing?

We're praying holy spirit. Make this word effectual in me so that i will remember that only you can make this the word effectual in them. And so that's one application that will always be praying with the work. Another application is it will deliver us from discouragement. Because we'll count it a privilege.

Regardless of fruit. As paul writes to the Thessalonians. He's not saying Yeah, you guys, sure weren't as begotten of good as the bereans were No, his letter to them, is rejoicing over how begotten of good, how god, the holy spirit because they were elect had given them hearts to recognize his word, not as the words of men, but the word of god and had worked in them faith and hope and love.

So that we, we don't grow discouraged about the smallness of the fruit. We're amazed that there's fruit because we know how that got there. The triune god had decided that he was going to redeem for himself people and he chose them before the foundation of the world and he sent his son into the world.

And now god, the the spirit, the third person of the trinity is applying life from god. The son said that people will be brought to faith and be united to God the son. And then the holy spirit you is Um, sent forth as the spirit of the sun into the hearts and takes residence.

In those whom, he has regenerated to belief. And be joined to jesus christ. Now, exactly. How many of those do you need? In a congregation before you're encouraged that something good at it. If the number is higher than one, you're doing it wrong.

And so, We're delivered from prayerlessness. Will always be praying for the work. We're delivered from discouragement. Well, count it, a privilege that we got to proclaim jesus in the first place. And we'll know. There's not one there's not a single one. Who has chosen in him or for whom he died that it's going to fail to be saved.

And amazement, that that we've been given the honor. I've been called to be a mom. And i get to tell. About jesus christ. From god's unscriptures. To these children. And i haven't yet seen fruit or i haven't seen the fruit. I want to none of us. See the fruit.

We want to the fruit. We want to comes at the return of christ when we enter glory together and resurrected bodies in a new heaven and a new earth. But now i'm remembering that god, the holy spirit is the one. Who does all of that from start to finish?

And privilege. The privilege that i have of speaking at the privilege, he's given my child by putting him in my home and in his church of hearing it. And, Instead of the the discouragement

now we're thinking, The god who did those things and who has marked them off? And in his providence there in my house and has given us.

These means and it's given me the honor of employing. These means, Should i be doing that? In shaking culturing faltering fear that it's not going to take a fact. On an awful, unbelieving response to all of that data. It's not presumption that they're saved. It's receiving all that god has done and said about that child.

And counting it, your privilege to speak christ to them and their god-given privilege to hear christ's spoken to them, even as your praying, that his spirit would make it, take effect in them. It also. Helps us to reject pride, regardless of fruit. Now, paul isn't thinking? Yeah, i did.

Okay in fell up high and i i did better in in Thessalonica. But boy, did i knock it out of the parking berea? No god, the holy spirit. Gave the fruit. And so in the place of pride, there's thankfulness He thinks god for the Philippians. We see that and let her to fill you.

Thanks god for the Thessalonians. You see that in the letter? That's Ionica. And we could be sure he thank god for the for what happened, with the bereans. God, helping me. Applying this passage to me by his spirit, when i think of you and the work that god is doing in your lives, i won't be thinking boy, i'm sure glad that i came and instituted all those different reformations and we got rid of all that men made junk and You know, doctrines of demons like, we were hearing about first.

First, Timothy 4 and, you know, we put the r and the p back into arp. And now look at how wonderful these people are. No.

If it has to be God, the holy spirit. Who does anything? Yourself. Thank you, lord. That you have given the privilege. Of gathering. You know, these ones for whom you at are. The one who elected for whom you sent christ, upon who in whom you are working by your spirit.

And now we're seeing all of this fruit of your work. Knowing that it's only God, the holy spirit can do. It doesn't just save us from prayerlessness and discouragement it ought to deliver us from pride, too.

When there's a redundancy, in your outline, you just Add thanksgiving to praise. They're not a redundancy. I Snuck four into, To. So there's two of the marks. And preaching of christ from the word. Marks all true. Gospel ministry. The Persuasive work of the holy spirit marks, altru gospel ministry.

And a persecuting response of the world. Marks. All true. Gospel ministry. All of it. Now, we see that in the pattern here. Uh, certainly, we saw it in philip i Paul had the stripes to. To prove it. Um, And really it bears saying here? Uh messed it from the outline just now is persecution by the losers.

It's persecution by the losers. Those Jews who hear the preaching of the gospel, and they don't respond with faith. They're the ones who are losing. Aren't they? And these magistrates. Who are so easily. Manipulated, and yet trying to manipulate. We are considering them a couple of weeks ago. There's still the same guys.

Um, They? When it was day verse 35, the magistrates send the officers. I don't know why. It's, it's officers. It's the stick guys. It's the rod guys is the guys who Beat them with their hand. Is the guys who had the rods in their hands when they beat him in the previous passage.

And and now you know, a little guy on the totem pole, the kind of nasty small-minded person who enjoys getting to swing. The stick enjoy is getting to to send the message. The, the rod bearers come and they say let those men go. So the keeper of the prison reported, these words to paul saying the magistrates is sent To let you go now therefore depart and go in peace.

But paul said to them and so there's there's a little bit of a change here, right? Because he's not responding to the jailer, the convert who's now the head of a christian household? Apparently they have come in or he goes outside or whatever it is, he addresses the rod bearers themselves.

These are the guys who stripes paul is wearing on his back. Says, they have beaten us, openly uncondemned romans and have thrown us into prison. And now, do they put us out secretly? No, indeed, let them come themselves and get us out. And the rod bears versus, you know, the same thing verse 38 there.

You imagine their own personal horror? Um, they run, they tell the words, the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were romance, you know, remember the way the whole thing was stirred up these men being Jews. Yeah, we rubbans. Um, Yeah. These are the ones. These are the losers outside of faith in jesus christ to live their lives in fear being manipulated and manipulating being hated and hating the way.

That Titus chapter 3 says all people are at bottom apart from christ. The way all people are. Yeah. It's the, it's the jews who don't believe who aren't persuaded verse 5. And we know that there's a If you were there for the midweek meeting, That's a divine passive god.

The holy spirit had not regenerated them, so that they would be persuaded, no one deserves to be regenerated. That's a mercy. That none deserve the some, by god's extraordinary, mercy and grace. Are given. Uh, becoming envious. Took some evil men from the marketplace and gathering a mob and so on, you don't look at envious people and and say You know, there's a big man.

No, an envious guy is a small spiteful jealous worthless, man. Someone who's full of jealousy and envy and bitterness. You see the way the the persecutors are being described here? And they're all like that. We should have a a biblical enough view. Of who the church are and who the haters of the church are?

To say, we are the winners. We are the recipients of mercy. We are those united to christ. We are those and dwelt by the spirit. We are those who who are already seated with him and the heavenly places and will and will reign with him in a new heavens and a new earth forever.

There's others are the unbelieving enslaved, fear, bound, spiteful. Envious one's

Ending to condemned ones. Yeah, you have the persecution and philip. I and teslanika, the ones at Berea, almost don't get their persecution, but Uh, but there are enough spiteful, jews left in Thessalonica to make sure they get their share. And they come and give it, but listen to the way.

Uh, paul writes to the Thessalonians.

We're back in chapter one, verse six of first lesson, onions, you've become because it became followers of us and of the lord, having received the word in much affliction. With joy of the holy spirit. And so the the persuading the the holy spirit came with the providence persecution. By

the wicked who don't believe so that you became examples to all in Macedonia into Kaya who believe For, from you, the word of the lord has sounded forth.

Etc. Okay, so It wasn't just joy of the holy spirit. That was an example, but affliction was also an example. How do we know Well. In. Losing my place in the outline. In chapter 2, he follows the Receiving the word of god. As. A you welcomed it, not as the word of men, but as it is and truth, the word of god which also effectively works in you who believe.

And here's here's an example of that effective working versus Thessalonians 2, 14 for you brethren became imitators of the churches of god, which are in judea in christ jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen. Just as they did from the judeans. Who killed? Both the lord jesus.

And their own profits. And have persecuted us. And he goes on to describe how they? The demonstrate. That they are condemned. Well, this is starting to be a pattern. All of the true prophets. Are persecuted for for prophesying, the lord jesus christ, up until the time of jesus. You remember, jesus said this was true of all the prophets from A to Z able to zachariah and that's a historical not just alphabetical and and it was true with jesus and it was true with the apostles in jerusalem and it was true with the church in jerusalem and then it was true with the apostles to the gentiles Paul and Barnabas and paul the first with Barnabas and then when silas and then it was true of all the churches that the that they had planted up until Thessalonica and then it was true of all of the churches and Macedonia and Kaya after Thessalonica.

And then paul writing at the end of this, his ministry is reminding. Timothy of the same things about himself and his ministry. Second Timothy chapter 3, verse 10 but you have carefully, followed my doctrine matter of life, purpose faith, long suffering, love perseverance. Persecutions afflictions which happen to me at antioxonium and Lystrom.

What are those have in common? Well, those are. Places that he got persecuted. Before. What persecutions? I endured. And out of them all the lord delivered me. Yes. And all who desire to live godly in christ. Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and imposters and he goes on to talk about evil men and impossible.

What is the implication? That if you think you're preaching jesus. But those who hear you and don't get converted. Don't hate and depose you for it. You might be an evil man in an imposter. If you think you are desiring to live a godly life in christ jesus, but those who reject jesus's claim of divinity, jesus's claimed that he is the only life that they can ever have only righteousness that they can have jesus's claim as their god and king to whom they must submit and obey.

Jesus's claim as their lawgiver. The whatever he says in his bible is moral is right? And whatever. He says immoral is immoral is wicked. That if they reject jesus. But they're not rejecting you. Then there's still too much of a distance. Between what you say and what jesus says, And how you live.

And how jesus says to live Because you're not annoying enough to them yet. That there are those whom the lord is bringing to himself, and he is softening their hearts until jesus christ. And Very they love whatever they hear from you about jesus and whatever they see in you that is from jesus.

Do not wonder when those who are perishing for rejecting jesus christ. Resent. You In proportional measure. To how much you love him and how much you proclaim it. And if they don't resent you at all, Do wonder. At what measure? At the measure to which you are. Loving him or Proclaiming him.

Because a persecuting response from those who hear the word plainly. And see it embraced. Zealously. Is one of the marks of a true work. A true gospel work. A true gospel church. True gospel evangelism. True gospel missions.

It sure helps us escape this. Desire. That We any of us individually or We as a congregation or denomination. Would be beloved by all. Oh, we want to be beloved by those who are falling in love with christ. We want to be soaked informed with him to him that those who are who are coming to faith in him when they meet us they hear us.

See us my people. And we would feel the same about them. But it is an unbiblical desire. To be beloved or admired by the world. We should want. To be close enough to the word of christ. And have. Enough of a work of the spirit and conforming us. To christ himself.

That those who are not receiving him. Will reject us to. Praise be to god. That he has actually at work in his church's. That he tells us what that looks like in his word. And that we may look to him. To produce that work in us. Let's pray and asking to do so.

Our father in heaven. We thank you and praise you. That we Are in an age of the working out and applying Of what your son has accomplished. For those for him. He came and died those for him, you sent him. Having elected. From before the world began. Those whom you would redeem into the praise of your glory with braille lord.

That would be, it would be into the praise of your glory. We pray that your, your spirit would. Faithfully work out in us. The fruit of this portion of your word. That our ministry. Whether it's one another or Our children in the home more. Within the congregation. Going out from here and evangelism admissions, that it would be.

They preaching of christ from the whole of the scriptures. We pray. Oh god. That You would keep us mindful dependent upon humbled by delighted by encouraged, by Your spirit being the one who produces the fruit. And we pray, lord. We, we pray lord that there would be so many.

The percentage would be so high. That the persecution, the rejection. Would come from few. And the yellow lord whatever. However many. It is your will to convert. We pray that those who receive christ would welcome and And us and that we would be beloved with them. And that those who are rejecting him.

Would see and hear enough of him and us that we would be resented for his sake, too. Grant to us, that fellowship. With ultra churches and ultra believers, even with jesus himself. And his name, we ask it all. Amen.