

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 29: Good News That Divides

READ Acts 13:42-52 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message that divides its listeners. This was evident in how those listening to Paul responded to his message. Many received the word of God with great joy and longed to hear more. By their belief they confirmed that they “were appointed to eternal life” (v. 48). Whereas many of the Jewish leaders, jealous at the response Paul and Barnabas received, stirred up much trouble and drove them out of the district. By their rejection of the Good News they “judged themselves unworthy of eternal life” (v. 46).

Big idea: The Good News of Jesus Christ faithfully preached will result in division.

Questions:

1. Why do you think the gospel is an offensive message? See 1 Cor 1:18, 22-24.

2. A) What was the positive response Paul and Barnabas received from Paul’s gospel message (vv. 42-44) and why?

B) Paul and Barnabas encouraged the new converts “to continue in the grace of God” (v. 43). How might they do this? See Acts 11:23; 14:22; Col 1:23; Heb 12:15.

3. A) What was the negative response to Paul’s gospel message and why (vv. 45-45)?

B) What did Paul mean when he said, “Since you thrust [the Good News] aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life” (v. 46)? How did their rejection of the gospel show that they were “unworthy of the gospel”?

4. A) Luke says that “as many as were appointed to eternal life believed” (v. 48). What did Paul mean by this? Note: the word “appointed” comes from the Greek word *tasso*, meaning “to inscribe” or “to enroll”. See also, Rev 13:8 and 17:8.

B) How does your answer to question 4A encourage you in your view of God, salvation, evangelism etc? See John 10:26-27; Eph 2:8-9; 2 Thess 2:13.

5. How did Paul and Barnabas response to being driven from the district (v. 51)? How might you apply this today, as you share the gospel?

6. What do you learn from “the disciples” (could be either Paul and Barnabas or the new converts) response to the whole episode at Antioch in Pisidia (v. 52)?

7. What is a new truth you have learnt from this week’s lesson or the most important lesson you plan to apply?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God that His word continues to spread despite hindrances and obstacles

Thank: the Lord for the provision of joy and the Holy Spirit in the midst of difficulties

Pray: that you may confidently share the whole truth of the gospel without wavering