

**CP - 4/30/23**

**Acts 14:19–23: Wholehearted Commitment in Galatia**

\*“What’s your price?” Paul’s loyalty to Christ could not be bought away, dissuaded, or removed!

\*Christ’s promise about Paul in Acts 9:15–16 - Paul would find out suffering was part of belonging to Christ, part of carrying out Christ’s mission, and part of serving Christ’s church!

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**1. Wholehearted Commitment to Christ (Acts 14:19)**

\*The Jews kept coming. (Acts 9:23, 29; 12:3; 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5)

- Came over 100 miles
- Enemies of the Gospel

\*Paul considered Jesus worthy of suffering and death. (Phil 1:20)

- Crowds like those in Jerusalem “worship Paul” one minute and kill him the next
- Stoned, left for dead
- Disciples rallied around him

\*\*\*Is Christ one part of our life, or is He our life? (Martyr’s Oath)

**2. Wholehearted Commitment to the Mission (Acts 14:20–21)**

*How often we are bold in everything but the Gospel! (opinions, sports, politics, media)*

\*The mission always goes on, no matter what occurs.

- Paul and Barnabas went to the next city. (Derbe)
  - Showing wisdom again, as in 14:6
  - Paul & Barnabas kicked out of Antioch; they move on Iconium.
  - Kicked out of Iconium, go to Lystra
  - Stoned in Lystra, go to Derbe (60 miles SE of Lystra)

\*The mission is always proclaiming and discipling. (two sides of same coin)

\*\*\*Is Christ’s mission a lifestyle or a hobby?

**3. Wholehearted Commitment to the Church (Acts 14:22–23)**

\*They returned instead of taking an easier route.

- “Derbe was the easternmost church established on the mission of Paul and Barnabas. Had the two chosen to do so, they could have continued southeast from Derbe on through the Cilician Gates the 150 miles or so to Paul’s hometown of Tarsus and from there back to Syrian Antioch. It would have been the easiest route home by far. They chose, however, to retrace their footsteps and revisit all the congregations that had been established in the course of the mission. In so doing they gave an important lesson on the necessity of follow-up and nurture for any evangelistic effort.” (John Polhill, Acts, New American Commentary)

\*They strengthened the disciples and encouraged them to persevere.

- “strengthen” - “make more firm”; “encouraging” come along side - exhort to obey
- May we be a church of the whole counsel! May we preach and teach and believe things that cause us concern and introspection! “Go where they preach about hell, go where the Word pricks your conscience, go where you have to go back home and do some repair!” (Leonard Ravenhill)
- May we never soothe our sins but confront and convict them! For this is the work of the Spirit! To convict us of our sin! To bring to our mind what Jesus said! To guide us in all truth! To glorify Jesus

\*They appointed elders to lead the churches.

- “episkopos” - “overseer/bishop” (authority)
- “presbyteros” - “elder” (maturity)
- “poimén” - “shepherd/pastor” (care/protection)
- The churches existed without these men for some time, but they were necessary.

\*\*\*Christ deserves more than just our Sundays!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon in Bible passage today?
2. Discuss how and why the word “commitment” has lost meaning and value in our society. What is the difference, biblically, between Jesus being a part of our life and Jesus being our life?
3. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to persecution? Why are we so prone to view Paul and Barnabas’ actions as “radical?” Discuss how our view and response to suffering and persecution is more American/Western than New Testament.
4. How did Paul and Barnabas show commitment to the churches of Galatia? From verses 21–23, discuss what they did to help the churches. How does God grow and mature His church? Why are church leaders necessary and important?
5. Discuss how each of us can foster and expect a local church culture of commitment. What can each of us do to show that Jesus, His mission, and His people are our lives and not a hobby?