

CHAPTER 14

AND it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use *them* despitefully, and to stone them,

6 They were ware of *it*, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

7 And there they preached the gospel.

8 ¶ And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14 *Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard *of*, they rent their clothes, and ran in

among the people, crying out,

15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

19 ¶ And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had

taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:

26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

CHAPTER 15

AND certain men which came down from Judaea taught the

brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.

6 ¶ And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren,

ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

12 ¶ Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

13 ¶ And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me:

14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And to this agree the words

of the prophets; as it is written,

16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.

21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

22. Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

30 So when they were dis-

missed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

31 *Which* when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed *them*.

33 And after they had tarried *there* a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

34 Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

36 ¶ And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go

again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 14 records the completion of Paul's first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas met with opposition in verses 1-20. That opposition did not stop them; instead they stayed in the cities and continued to preach.

Each of us can learn a practical lesson from this chapter. Wherever the Gospel is preached and some believe, you will find division and disturbance. Even today, many Christians suffer because of loved ones who have rejected Christ. But it is not for us to quit the battle of faith; we should, rather, surrender our will to our Commander, Jesus Christ, and allow Him to win our battles for us.

In chapter 15:36-41 Paul and Barnabas severed their missionary relationship and each took new associates. Paul chose Silas, and Barnabas took John Mark. Paul felt that John Mark had failed them on

their first missionary journey, since he departed from them at Pamphylia. But Barnabas was a relative of John Mark and was willing to give him another chance. From these verses we see that it is possible for men to agree doctrinally and yet disagree in practical things. Of course, differences are always regrettable; and the Lord can overrule them when we take them to Him.

Silas, who had been a key figure in the Jerusalem assembly (chapter 15:22) and also a prophet (verse 32) was now Paul's partner. Timothy, a young man who had been saved when Paul visited Lystra on his first missionary journey, joined Paul and Silas, taking John Mark's place (chapter 16:1-5). Timothy, no doubt, witnessed Paul's suffering at Lystra (II Timothy 3:10,11), and had proved himself worthy of Christian service.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished (Proverbs 17:5).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 37: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

LUCY MIKE

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1869

THE SUEZ CANAL WAS OPENED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

1800

THE FIRST CONGRESS CONVENED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Let us pause for a few moments today for our Congress and those in authority over us. Let us pray for God’s hand of blessing to rest upon those people who lead us in Washington, D.C. Let us pray today for God to bless our Congress.

1876

THE CONVERSION OF THE FAMOUS GYPSY SMITH.

It was Gypsy Smith who said, “Anyone can preach to a crowd, but it takes the grace of God to preach to one man.”

Many years ago in the city of Dallas, Texas, Dr. John R. Rice was visiting the services of the First Bap-

tist Church, where Gypsy Smith was preaching. Gypsy Smith was preaching on soul winning and Dr. Rice said to himself, “I’m going to witness to the first person I see after this service is over.” When the benediction was finished, Dr. Rice ran outside the building and saw a taxicab driver. He stopped and asked him, “Do you know Jesus Christ? Are you saved?”

The taxicab driver said, “Yes. A gypsy man just came out of this door right here, the speaker’s door, and told me about Christ. I’ve been a Christian now just for a few minutes.”

You see, Gypsy Smith beat his congregation in soul-winning.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1842

Capture of George Latimer in Boston led to first of the fugitive slave cases which embittered North and South. Boston abolitionists raised money to purchase Latimer from his slave holder.

1972

President Nixon reelected, carrying forty-nine of the fifty states, despite massive black vote for Sen. McGovern.

Sixteen blacks were elected to Congress. Andrew Young of Atlanta was the first black elected to Congress from the Deep South since the Reconstruction era. Also elected for the first time were Barbara Jordan (Tex.) and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (Calif.). Republican Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts was overwhelmingly endorsed for a second term.

A Christian Life . . .

MELVIN ERNEST TROTTER (1870-1940)

Rescue mission worker. Mel Trotter was born in Orangeville, Illinois, the son of a godly mother and a drunken father. His mother tried to teach him to pray, but he followed in the footsteps of his father and became a drunkard. He left home at the age of 17 and, after years of drink and sin and on the verge of self-destruction, Mel ventured into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, where he heard the Gospel. That night he responded to the invitation to receive Christ as his Saviour, and his life was transformed. Later he entered the ministry, and was ordained a Presbyterian minister.

After conducting some evangelistic meetings, he was called to be superintendent of a rescue mission in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His unusual burden for the spiritual needs of the down and out prompted him to establish 67 rescue missions from Boston to San Francisco. He was known as the man who “raved about Jesus.”



Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

D. THE ERROR OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HEAVEN

(Assignment 37)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

() Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

() Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

() Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

() Matthew 7:13

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

() Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.