Witnesses to Christ


The Appointment of God
Lesson 11
Acts 13

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
March 13, 2016
Outline – Acts 1:8

- Witnesses in Jerusalem (1-7)
  - Witnesses to Jesus Christ
  - Witnesses by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Witnesses in all Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- Witnesses to the remotest part of the earth (13-28)
A Major Transition

- Israel set aside
- The Law of Moses ended
- The Person and Work of Christ unveiled
  - Christ in the flesh; death and resurrection
  - Same message with new clarity: the just shall live by faith
- The power of the Holy Spirit unleashed
  - Not new – no spiritual life without the Spirit (Rom 8:8-11)
  - New power – (John 14:17; 26; 15:26; 16:7-14)
Acts 1-12 – Review

- Part 1 – Acts 1-7
  - The coming of the Holy Spirit
  - Powerful preaching; miraculous signs
  - Opposition – persecution and death
  - The believing community takes form

- Part 2 – Acts 8-12
  - Persecution drives believers from Jerusalem
  - Samaria, Ethiopian eunuch, Saul, Cornelius
  - Antioch emerges as dominant believing community
  - The power of God evident – Gospel (12:24), Peter, Herod
Part 3 – Acts 13-28

- Three missionary journeys (13-14; 16-18; 19-20)
- Jerusalem Council (15)
- Paul’s arrest and defense (21-28)
- Acts 13
  - Barnabas and Saul sent out (13:1-3)
  - Witnessing in Cyprus (13:4-12)
  - Witnessing in Antioch (13:13-52)
Barnabas and Saul Sent Out (13:1-3)

- Prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch
- Barnabas, the enabler (4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:22-26)
- Saul, the Lord’s chosen vessel (9:6, 15-16; 13:2; 22:10, 12-16, 21; 23:11; 26:16-17)
- The Holy Spirit directs the church at Antioch
- The church fasted, prayed, laid hands, sent
Witnessing in Cyprus (13:4-12)

- Proclaiming the Word of God
  - Synagogues first
  - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 15:3-4 – Christ crucified and raised
  - 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 – wisdom of God; foolish to men
  - Sergius Paulus sought to hear the Word of God

- Bar-Jesus the magician – Elymas
  - Opposing Paul and Barnabas – hinder salvation
  - Paul’s assessment (Acts 13:10)
  - Blind “for a time”

- Sergius Paulus believed – “amazed at the teaching of the Lord”

- A spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-12)
Witnessing in Antioch (13:13-52)

- Jesus, the Savior (13:23, 26, 32, 38-39, 43, 47)
  - History of Israel (13:16-25)
  - The Promise of God (13:26-37)
  - Justification by faith (13:38-43)
- Persecution (13:44-52)
Part 1: History of Israel (13:16-25)

- Men of Israel and you who fear God
- God of Israel – History of salvation
  - Chose the fathers
  - An unworthy people – Egypt, wilderness, judges, Saul
  - Grace of God – great people, exodus, inheritance
- Samuel (1 Samuel 2:1-11; 3:1, 19-21, 4:1)
- David
- John the Baptist
  - Baptism of repentance
  - Jesus is the Worthy One
- Jesus is the end point of the O.T./Promise
Part 2: The Promise of God (13:26-37)

- Family of Abraham and you who fear God
- This salvation has been sent
- Jews did not recognize Jesus or the prophetic word
- Death and burial of Jesus
- “But God raised Him from the dead.” (13:30)
  - The Begotten One (Psalm 2:7)
  - Sure blessings of David (Isaiah 55:3; Psalm 32:2)
  - The Holy One (Psalm 16:10)
- The good news of the Promise made to the fathers
Part 3: Justification by Faith (13:38-41)

- Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed through Jesus Christ
- Freed (justified) by faith
- Not available through the Law of Moses
- Take heed – a warning not to reject this Promise
- Habakkuk 1:5 – a shocking work – salvation
The Power of God for Salvation

- Salvation (13:42-43)
  - Begging to hear more of the Word
  - Many Jews and God-fearing proselytes
  - Urged to continue in the grace of God

- Persecution (13:44-45; 50)
  - Nearly the whole city came to hear the Word of the Lord
  - Jews filled with jealousy
  - Contradicting and blaspheming

- Turning to the Gentiles (13:46-47)
  - Christ a light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6)
  - Gentiles – appointed to eternal life – believed
  - The word of the Lord spread through the whole region
  - Disciples filled with joy and the Holy Spirit
The Appointment of God

- Acts 13:41
- Behold and marvel – Jesus Christ, Savior
- Accomplishing work in your days you will not believe
- Preach/proclaim – a spiritual work
- Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit
  - Boldness
  - Regeneration