

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO. 5 - Read Acts 13:1-12 + Romans 1 again and add chapter 2 this week.

Theme: [Saul] Paul + Barnabus sent to Cyprus to preach the Gospel. What Gospel did they preach?

Truth: Men, in their blind error and rejection of the one true God, always attempt to make for themselves a “religion” to satisfy Holy God. Thus, men reason that by human achievement or sacrifice, they can make themselves acceptable to Holy God. All religion, except Christianity, is based on some type of system where the man “earns for himself favor” by doing certain works or suffers some type of pain for his sins.

Christianity is the ONLY religion based upon **Divine Accomplishment!** It is a grace + mercy based religion where God, Himself, through the satisfying life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provides ALL that is required to reconcile sin-filled men to holy God. The entire emphasis on Christianity is that man is incapable of saving himself, thus, he must have a perfect Savior. Christianity points to what God has ALREADY accomplished for the sinner and not what the sinner can do for himself or for others.

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It is finished!**” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

For the sinner to come into possession of this great liberty and blessing, he must completely understand his wretched position that he is without power to please God.

This truth is precisely why repentance ALWAYS accompanies salvation. One must be convicted of their lost sinful condition before they recognize their position and will cry out for a Savior.

Romans 3:23 for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

This is the truth which the Holy Spirit implanted within Paul + Barnabus. Paul and Barnabus then declares this truth to the towns in Cypress, Pamphylia, Pisidia and Antioch.

Question 1. Who equips and sends out proclaimers of Jesus Christ?

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the **Holy Spirit** said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Question 2. Are all people called to proclaim Jesus Christ?

Yes. All Christ-followers are commanded to proclaim their love for Jesus Christ. Some are called to do it in the place the location where they began their “new-birth”, but, some like, Barnabus and Saul [Paul], are sent out by the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus in different places.

Matthew 10:32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

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Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Question 3. Will the Christ-proclaimer find opposition to his proclamation? Will the servants of the devil try to prevent people from hearing about Jesus?

Yes. Acts 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to **turn the proconsul away** from the faith.

Question 4. Will Jesus Christ lose any whom He has chosen and called? **No!**

Acts 13:12 **Then the proconsul believed**, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

John 10:28-30 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand**. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

John 6:36-38 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Question 5. What is the central truth of the Gospel which we are proclaim? All mankind is guilty! What are we going to do about our guilt and unholiness before a Holy God who justly demands perfect holiness? **All mankind is without excuse!**

Romans 1:18-25 [v] 20-21 For since the **creation** of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 2:14-16 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their **conscience** also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Question 6. What are the three ways God has declared Himself to all humanity so they are without excuse? 1.) Creation. 2.) Conscience. 3.) His written and spoken Words.

John 15:21-23 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now **they have no excuse for their sin**. He who hates Me hates My Father also.

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My **word** and **believes** in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

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John 5:46-47 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**

Question 7. What happens to the person who rejects Christ's words?

Romans 2:4-16 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with **your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek [non-Jew / Gentile]; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek [non-Jew / Gentile]. **For there is no partiality with God.**

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law . . .

[Jon's Comment: After being born again and given the mind of Christ, the Christ-follower can now think like Christ who **perfectly kept the law** = **Mark 12:29-31** Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." **Matthew 22:40** "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."]

. . . these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, **their conscience** also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Have you been so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ, who died for you, that you cannot help but Tell Somebody today and every day about Him? Will you tell others at every opportunity about Jesus' Incredible / Immeasurable / Infinite / Magnificent / Marvelous / Matchless / Unimaginable / Unlimited / Unfathomable / love for all of us?

Such a great salvation simply cannot be enjoyed in silence! Please write down the day and events of your salvation just as Paul recorded his own "new-birth" in Acts 9 and send it to us to rejoice with you.

Please write down any questions and forward to write2stm@gmail.com or WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com. We will attempt to answer your questions as we are given clarity, time and opportunity.

All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis