

ACTS: PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY

THE BIRTH, DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

FIVE: PAUL'S FIRST MISSION TRIP

SECTION LEAD-IN: By AD 48, the church in Syrian Antioch was poised to become a beachhead for the expansion of Christianity. Its location made it ideal for launching into the regions of modern-day Turkey and points west, into Europe. Its situation was equally favorable—a large, growing Gentile membership spearheaded by two respected leaders, Barnabas and Saul. Once these two had ministered together there for a year, and had returned from their mission of mercy (delivering aid to the needy Christians in Judea), the time was right for the next big step in taking the world for Christ ...

SECTION BREAKDOWN: (See BIG PICTURE Outline)

V. PAUL'S FIRST MISSION TRIP (13-14) A.D. 48-49

A. (13:1-3) Barnabas & Saul CALLED and SENT by the Holy Spirit

B. (13:4-12) Ministry on the island of Cyprus

1) *Preaching in Salamis*

2) *Conversion of SERGIUS PAULUS in Paphos*

C. (13:13-52) Ministry in Pisidian Antioch

1) *John Mark LEAVES THEM (Paul & Barnabas) and goes home*

2) *Paul's sabbath day sermon in Antioch CONVINCES many Jews*

[ANCIENT HISTORY (13:16-22—Abraham to David) → RECENT HISTORY (13:23-31—The Savior, Jesus and His forerunner; D,B,R & appearances) → GOOD NEWS TODAY! (13:32-41—Jesus is alive and saves those who believe! → INITIAL RESPONSES (13:42-43)]

3) *The next sabbath, Jews RESIST and oppose; Gentiles REJOICE!*

D. (14:1-7) Ministry in Iconium

1) *Great RESPONSE from Jews and Greeks*

2) *Great OPPOSITION from Jew and Gentile unbelievers*

E. (14:8-20) Ministry in Lystra

1) *A disabled man healed; a plan to WORSHIP Barnabas and Paul!?*

2) *A timely message about the ONE TRUE God*

3) *Jews from Antioch and Iconium incite the STONING of Paul, who is then REVIVED!*

F. (14:21-23) Ministry in Derbe, then doubling back

1) *MANY saved in Derbe!*

2) *Paul and Barnabas strengthen the disciples and APPOINT ELDERS*

G. (14:24-28) The return to Antioch; Paul & Barnabas REPORT

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SIX: THE LEADERS' CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM

SECTION LEAD-IN: As the Good News spreads to new frontiers, and more and more Gentiles turn to Christ, a controversy is brewing. Certain head-strong Jewish leaders of the church in Jerusalem take it upon themselves to impose Old Covenant Law upon these non-Jewish New Covenant Christians. Neither commissioned nor invited, they travel to Syrian Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas have recently returned from their recent mission trip. After some sparks fly, a meeting in Jerusalem is set up to discuss and resolve this conflict.

SECTION BREAKDOWN:

VI. THE LEADERS' CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM (15) A.D. 49-50

A. (15:1-5) The initial _____ in Antioch necessitates a _____ in Jerusalem

B. (15:6-12) Peter, Barnabas and Paul give compelling testimony of God's _____ and _____ among the Gentiles.

QUESTION: So, are Christians today under the Old Covenant Law?

SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER: Acts 15:1-11; Exodus 19:1-8; 20:1-17; 24:3-8; 31:12-17; Deut 5:15; Lev 27:34; Num 36:13; Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 20:10-13; Mal 4:4; Mat 5:17-48; Mat 26:26-28; Heb 4:1-11; 7:12,18-19; 8:6-13; 9:15-22; 10:8-14; 2 Cor 3:7-18; Gal 3:23-29; 5:1-6; Eph 2:13-19; Rom 7:1-6; 8:1-4; 10:4; Phil 3:3-9

C. (15:13-21) _____ takes charge and _____ a resolution
(See Gen 9:3-4; Lev 17:10-12,14)

D. (15:22-34) A letter drafted and sent to the _____ churches,
first to _____.

E. (15:35-41) Paul and Barnabas go their separate ways, but _____
_____ Kingdom work! (See Col 4:10 & 2 Tim 4:11)