

# Gospel Advance. Opposition. (Repeat).

Acts 13:44 to 14:7

February 9, 2020

The gospel caused division when Paul and Barnabas preached.

1. This is not a **surprise**
  - a. Simeon's prophetic word to Mary (Luke 2:34)
    - i. Who's falling? \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Who's rising? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jesus' instructions to His disciples (Matthew 10:34)
    - i. "the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15)
    - ii. Division is the effect, not the purpose, of the gospel
2. Inclusion in God's new covenant family is by faith in Jesus
  - a. People either accept or reject the "word of the Lord" (13:44, 46, 48, 49)
  - b. πιστις *pistis* (faith) = believe, **trust**, rely (13:48; 14:1-2)
3. When people realize that the message of grace through faith in Christ means that the lines of who was "in" or "out" with God were being redrawn around Jesus, no one else (13:38-39) . . .
  - a. Some Jews and Gentiles are **violently** opposed (13:45, 50, 14:2, 5)
  - b. Other Jews and Gentiles **rejoiced** and believed (13:48; 14:1)
  - c. Paul and Barnabas and Jesus (13:47 quoting Isaiah 49:6)
    - i. Spoke boldly, shifted **focus**, moved on
    - ii. Shook off dust; not responsible for **response**
    - iii. Were "filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit"
    - iv. In Iconium they preached the "message of His grace" and the **Lord** confirmed with miracles
    - v. Moved on again, but kept **preaching** gospel

## Life Group Homework

1. READ Luke 2:25-35. Simeon says that the child he is holding in his arms will cause some people in Israel to "fall" and others to "rise." Have you seen people divided over Jesus? Explain.
2. READ Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 13:46; Gal. 3:6-9. Was Gentile inclusion in God's covenant community only an afterthought following Jewish rejection of Jesus as the Messiah?
3. *agree / disagree*  
Based on Acts 13:48, it is obvious that God is the sole reason why anyone chooses to believe in Christ and be saved.
4. Paul continued to visit synagogues (14:1; 17:1-2; 18:4, 19; 19:8) even after saying he was going to the Gentiles (13:46). Why didn't he give up preaching to his own Jewish people?
5. Preaching in Acts frequently was accompanied by "signs and wonders" (2:43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6,13; 14:3; 19:11) that God did through the apostles. READ Matthew 12:38-40; John 4:48; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24. How effective was preaching the gospel with "signs and wonders" in Paul's day (14:3-4)? In our day?