

Acts Chapter 13 – Handout #8

v.1- this first verse points to the diversity in the church in Antioch. Barnabas, Jew from Cyprus; Simeon called Niger (he might have had a dark complexion), who moved in Roman circles; Lucius from Cyrene, North Africa; Manean, who had high contacts because he had been reared with Herod Tetrarch (really Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist and treated Jesus shamefully at His trial; and Saul, a Jew trained in Rabbinical schools. All very different but functioning as one.

v.2-3- Barnabas and Saul are separated from the rest by the Holy Ghost for special ministry, the leaders fasted, prayed and laid hands on them, and sent them away. This is the beginning of the first missionary journey of Saul (Paul).

v.4-13- first 19 miles to Seleucia, then they sail to island of Cyprus, city of Salamis, where they preach in the synagogues. John Mark also ministers with them. They then traveled on the island to Paphos, the provincial government seat, where they encounter a sorcerer and false prophet, BAR-JESUS (means son of Jesus). He was the magician for the deputy (proconsul) of the country, SERGIUS PAULUS, who called for the missionaries because he was interested in the Word. Bar-Jesus, who is also called ELYMAS, discouraged the deputy but Saul calls him out as the son of the devil. He pronounces a temporary blindness on him, while the deputy, seeing the power of God, and having heard the Word, believed. They leave for Perga in Pamphylia but John Mark decides to go back to Jerusalem. This will be a problem later in the ministry partnership between Barnabas and Paul. The 9th verse is where we see Saul assume his greek name Paul. We will also see a pattern of the Jews rejecting more this new message and the Gentiles accepting with joy..

v.14- 43 They then go to Antioch in Pisidia and went to synagogue on Sabbath day, read the law and the prophets, and were encouraged to exhort the people. Paul stands and preaches, starting from the Jews experience in Egypt, to David, to John the Baptist to rejection of the prophets to the crucifying of Jesus, His resurrection and exaltation. Through Him there is forgiveness of sins and justification (v.38,39) v. 41 (Hab.1:5) He warns that God says He works a work now that you will not believe. After Paul finished the Gentiles wanted him to speak the next Sabbath.

44-50- The next Sabbath almost whole city showed up. But the Jews didn't like their popularity. Paul and Barnabas say We came to you first but seeing you think you have attained eternal life we turn to the Gentiles (v.46). Gentiles glad. But the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women, and Paul and Barnabas were expelled. They now go to Iconium after shaking dust from their feet.