

Gospel Resolve

Acts 14:8-28

Introduction

Settled, resolute, determined.

“Resolute” = ‘admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

The resolute perseverance of gospel proclamation

13:50-52

“shook off the dust from their feet”

“Iconium”

14:1-7

“Lystra”

“Derbe”

“Lycaonia”

vv8-18 Paul heals a man crippled from birth in Lystra.

Ancient Roman poet Ovid’s moralizing mythical story, *Baucis and Philemon*

vv14-15a

Acts 12:22-23

vv15b-18

Paul adjusts his gospel message strategy from one that was well suited for a Jewish audiences to one that better fits polytheistic pagans – *monotheistic*, common grace.

v19

“Jews came from Antioch”

“stoned Paul” a vicious act so utterly brutal that they mistook him for *dead*.

“supposed” Gk *nomizo*; ‘to assume’

Matthew 5:17

Matthew 10:34

Acts 8:20

v20

“he rose up and entered the city”

“his bodily presence is weak and his speech unimpressive” 2 Corinthians 10:10

“*Derbe*” was the end of the line for the first missionary journey.

v21

“they returned to Lystra and Iconium and to Antioch”

Why? – *to follow up with the newly reborn brothers and sisters in Christ and to establish church leadership.*

Paul cared about the condition of their souls and he cared about the permanency of church structure.

Matthew 28:19 *“make disciples.”*

That takes perseverance and follow up.

v22

“strengthening”

“encouraging” Gk *parakaleo*; ‘to aid, help, comfort, exhort’; to urge/spur someone on to do something.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12

Exhortation is the companion of teaching.

First comes receiving sound *orthodoxy*, then comes commitment to *orthopraxy*.

“continue in the faith”

Their faith would need to be pursued, cultivated, developed in order to endure.

“many tribulations”

The apostles did not withhold the truth about what they can expect as they seek to follow Christ.

These are all necessary elements of good evangelism and discipleship.

Acts 11:23

New believers need to know that challenges will come. They’ve just been conscripted into the Lord’s army.

14:22-23

Paul is following the pattern that already existed in the synagogues.

Titus 1:5

“elders” The Gk term is always in the masculine gender, and always plural in number.

“appointed” originally ‘stretching out the hands.’ ‘To elect to an office by lifting up the hand.’

It's interesting to note that from its earliest, formative stages a plurality of elders were to lead the church (11:30; 15:2, 4, 6, 22-23; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5).

14:24-28

"Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Acts 15:36

What does it mean for a Christian to have *Gospel Resolve*?

1. Be courageous
2. Be compassionate
3. Be humble (when people reject you; and give glory to God when people receive you)
4. Be confident (in Christ, not in yourself)
5. Be truthful (don't just say things that are safe, or that they want to hear)
6. Be wise (on where to go, whether to stay or go; and, adjusting your message to suit your audience)
7. Be active (keep going; God directs moving feet)
8. Be determined (don't quit, unless it's futile; and even then, keep praying)
9. Be efficient (have a plan; make effective use of the time God has given you)

Ephesians 5:15-17

James 1:12

1 Corinthians 15:58