

The Certainty of Opposition

Acts 13:4-13

Introduction

“Teach what accords with sound doctrine.” Titus 2:1

The church must not compromise the Truth.

Believing, embracing, living and proclaiming the whole Truth of God’s Word will be met with opposition.

2 Timothy 3:12

- ✓ We should accept opposition as a sign confirming our commitment to preach, teach and live the Truth.
- ✓ We should accept opposition as a challenge and an opportunity for the gospel to grow.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

“many adversaries”?

Don’t be surprised when opposition comes. Don’t be troubled. Don’t fear opposition, expect it.

The presence of opposition means that a battle against truth and error, of good and evil, is taking place.

Acts 13:2-3

v4

Notice, it was the Holy Spirit that sent them out, not the church.

The church at Antioch was a *Spirit-fed, Spirit-filled, Spirit-led* church.

The first of three Pauline missionary journeys.

“*Seleucia*” 16 miles west of Antioch near the mouth of the Orontes River. It served as Antioch’s port city.

“*Cyprus*”

v5

“*Salamis*”

“*they proclaimed the word of God*”

“*in the synagogues of the Jews*”

“*they had John to assist them*”

“assist”

v6

“Paphos”

“Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus”

v7

Sergius Paulus was not a *God-fearer* like Cornelius.

v8

“Elymas the magician”

“opposed them”

The darkest evil forces draw closest to people in positions of power.

The proclamation of gospel Truth is not a matter of cleverness of words, but engaging in all-out war with Satan for the souls of men.

v9

Paul was *“filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

v10

“son of the devil”

“deceit” Gk *dolos*, ‘a cleverly devised snare’

“villainy” ‘unscrupulous fraud.’

v11

The Lord, not Paul, punished Elymas for his opposition to the truth of the gospel.

“for a time” - a generous act of God’s grace.

v12

“he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”

The Word of God alone possesses the power to bring life out of death, making blind men see.

v13

“Now Paul and his companions.”

“John left them”