

Stoning and Other Benefits of the Gospel

1. The Gathering Opposition to the Gospel (19).

2. Preparing to Withstand Sustained Persecution (20-28).

- a. Gather Around Paul (20)
- b. Preach Gospel (21, 25)
- c. Make Disciples (21)
- d. Strengthen Souls of Disciples (22)
- e. Encourage Them (22)
- f. Appointed Elders for Each Church (23)
- g. Prayer & Fasting (24)
- h. Gather Church Together (27)
- i. Give Testimonies of God's Work (27)
- j. Fellowship (28)

3. Trusting Christ Together in the Coming Storm (27-28).

CONCLUSION: Jesus told us, "In the world you will have tribulation." We see that being borne out here in Acts with Paul and Barnabas. We should not be discouraged, even facing stoning, for Christ has also said, "But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The means by which He is overcoming the world is through His Church as He equips His people through discipleship to stand firm as we proclaim His Word together.

Ephesians 4: 11 – 16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow** so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Jesus calls us to follow Him in the process of discipleship. It's His means of making us more and more like Himself. We can know with confidence that He will succeed in His plans for us. Let us joyfully pursue His work in us together!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 6:10-20; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, Do you struggle with difficulties because of your faith in Christ? Why does God allow Paul to be stoned? How does He prepare the Church to sustain persecution? How are you being discipled? Why? PRAY "Jesus, You know what we need. Thank You for providing us Your Word and Your Church to strengthen us for the coming storm. Help us to trust You and encourage one another! "

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please join in-person or on-line!*

Monday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Exodus 13:17-22.** DISCUSS, How did God go with His people as He led them out of slavery in Egypt? For what were the people equipped? How do we see God's wisdom displayed through how He led them? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, You alone are God! Thank You for caring for us as You lead us. Teach us to trust You in all things."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Second Samuel 22:32-40.** DISCUSS, This passage gives the historical context for this song of praise that is also found in Psalm 18. From whom had God delivered David? How does that relate to Acts 14? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for rescuing us from all Your and our enemies."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Second Timothy 3:10-17; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, How would you describe Paul's discipleship of Timothy? Who are you nurturing in this way? Who have you followed as they follow Christ? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we need You to build Your Church. Please ground us in Your Word together."

Thursday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Hebrews 13:20-21; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, What is this benediction asking the Lord to do? Why? Is this your prayer? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, we want to do the good things You will us to do. Help us we pray!"

Friday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 6:10-20; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 15:1-41.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service.* Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Ephesians 6: 10 – 12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.