

“Not Ashamed!”
Acts 13:44-52

Introduction:

1. In Galatians 1:1-2 We Read The Following Introduction:
 - “Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) / And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia!”
 - The Churches Mentioned Here Are The Same Churches:
 - Paul Established On His First Missionary Journey:
 - Which We Learn About In Acts 13-14!
 - So - To Begin Our Series Through Galatians, We Are First Traveling With Paul & Barnabas On This First Missionary Journey:
 - As They Travel Through The Roman Province Of Galatia!
 - So - Let’s Head Back Over To Acts 13:
 - Where We Can See With Our Own Eyes:
 - And Hear With Our Own Ears:
 - The Gospel That Was First Preached In Galatia!
2. And What We Have Already Found:
 - Is That The Message Paul Gave:
 - In The Synagogue In The City Of Antioch - The First City He Arrived At In The Province Of Galatia:
 - It Is The Same Message He Gave To Every Person He Met & In Every Place He Went!
 - Because The Message Of The Gospel Never Changes!
 - In Acts 13:14-43 - We Find A Clear Presentation Of The Gospel!
 - And In This Message - Paul Makes 3 Main Points:
 - The First Main Point – Found In 13:16-23 – Was:
 - The Promise Of A Savior!
 - In Which All Of The History Of Israel Points To & Led Up To One Person – A Savior – Jesus!
 - The Second Main Point – Found In 13:24-37 – Is:
 - The Provision Of A Savior!
 - When Jesus Christ, The Son Of God, Was Born, Lived, Died On The Cross, Was Buried, And Rose From The Dead! He Did All Of This To Secure Salvation For Those Who Believe In Him!
 - The Third Main Point – Found In 13:38-43 – Was:
 - The Purpose Of The Savior!
 - Which Was To Offer Complete Forgiveness & Justification From God!
 - And The Stirring Question Paul Left In Their Minds – And In Ours:
 - Was This:
 - What Will You Do With Jesus?
 - Well - As We Have Seen Already - Many Of The Jews & Gentiles In That Synagogue ***Did*** Do Something With Jesus!
 - They Believed In Him & His Message Of Salvation:
 - And They Wanted To Hear More – They Wanted To Learn More – & They Wanted To Grow!
 - 3. And That Is Where We Turn Our Attention This Morning:
 - In Acts 13:44-52:
 - Where One Week After The First Message Was Preached:
 - We Read - “And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. / 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. / 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. / 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. / 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. / 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. / 50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their

coasts. / 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. / 52
And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost!”

- Not Everyone Was Thrilled With The Message Preached:

- By Paul & Barnabas!

- But - As We Will See - This Did Not Prevent Them From Continuing To Share This Unchanging Gospel:

- This Good News Of Jesus Christ!

- For They Were Not Ashamed!

- As Paul Wrote To The Roman Christians In Romans 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek!”

4. They Were Not Ashamed!

- And This Needs To Be Our Attitude Toward:

- The Gospel & God’s Word As Well!

- “Not Ashamed!”

- Why? Because Of:

1. A Great Opportunity:

- For The Gospel - Which We Find In 13:44:

- “And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God!”

- After Preaching The Gospel Message On The Previous Sabbath - Exactly One Week Before:

- In 13:42 - Paul & Barnabas Were Invited Back By Many Of The Gentiles In That Congregation!

- Why? From 13:42:

- “That These Words Might Be Preached To Them!”

- They Wanted To Hear More Of The Gospel!

- What A Great Opportunity!

- And What Did Paul & Barnabas Do With This Opportunity?

- They Seized It!

- They Stayed In Antioch And Returned To The Synagogue On That Very Next Sabbath!

- And What Did They Find?

- A Great Gathering!

- We Are Told In 13:44 That “Almost The Whole City” Came Together!

- What An Opportunity!

- They Did Not Know How Many People Would Come To Hear Them Speak On That Sabbath!

- But They Came - Because They Were “Not Ashamed” Of The Gospel Of Christ!

- But Not Only That - This Great Gathering Came With:

- A Great Goal!

- Which Was: “To Hear The Word Of God!”

- Now - The People That Came - May Not Have Completely Understood This:

- But For Many - This Was How Special Paul’s Message Had Become!

- Much Like What Happened Later In The City Of Thessalonica:

- And Paul Wrote In 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe!”

- This Was Going On In Antioch As Well!

- What A Great Opportunity:

- For Paul & Barnabas – And They Did Something With That Opportunity:

- They Kept Sharing The Gospel!

- We Must Remember That We Too Will Have:

- Great Opportunities For The Gospel!

- In Fact - Every Opportunity Is A Great Opportunity To Be A Witness For Christ!

- They Did Not Know How Many People Would Be There!

- They Did Not Know How They Would Respond!

- But They Were Not Ashamed!

- And We Must Not Be Either!

- But Instead - Look For & Use Every Opportunity:
 - God Gives Us To Share His Word!
 - For Many Times - The Door Of Someone's Heart May Be Wide Open!
- But We Need To Also Be Aware Of:

2. *A Great Obstacle:*

- To The Gospel - Which We Find In 13:45:
 - No Matter How Great The Opportunity - There Still May Be Some Great Obstacles To Overcome!
 - "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming!"
 - Not Everyone Was Open To Paul's Message Of Grace:
 - Especially These Jealous Jews There In Antioch! And We Can See:
 - The Motive For Their Jealousy:
 - "When The Jews Saw The Multitudes, They Were Filled With Envy!"
 - These Particular Jews - Were Not Focused On The Truth Of The Word Of God:
 - But On The Threat Posed To Them By Paul & Barnabas & Their Message!
 - These Jews Had Been In Antioch For Years:
 - Trying To Get Gentiles To Convert To Their Jewish Religion & Way Of Life:
 - And They Only Had A Handful Of Followers!
 - But Paul Has Been There For Only One Week:
 - And Look How Many Were Coming Back To Hear Him:
 - At Their Own Synagogue!
 - So What Did They Do?
 - The Manner Of Their Jealousy:
 - They "Heckled" Paul & Barnabas - Probably Even As They Spoke!
 - They "Spoke Against" The Message Being Preached!
 - With Contradiction:
 - Which Means - They Would Try To Say The Opposite Of What Paul & Barnabas Said! But Also:
 - With Blasphemy:
 - Which Means - They Ridiculed & Made Fun Of Paul & Barnabas - And In Doing So - They Were Blaspheming God Himself!
 - These Jealous Jews:
 - Were A Great Obstacle For Paul & Barnabas:
 - To Overcome!
 - And There May Be Great Obstacles For Us To Overcome As Well, When It Comes To Sharing God's Word & The Gospel!
 - But We Do Not Need To Be Ashamed!
 - But Keep On Sharing The Unchanging Message Of God's Word & His Gospel!
 - Because We All Still Have:

3. *A Great Obligation:*

- To The Gospel - Which We Find In 13:46-47:
 - "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. / For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!"
 - Even When We Face Obstacles Like Paul & Barnabas:
 - There Is Still A Great Obligation:
- For Believers:
 - What Is Our Obligation?
 - As We Are Told In 14:36 - "Then Paul & Barnabas Waxed Bold!"
 - That Is - They Continued To Speak With More Freedom / More Confidence / More Assurance!
 - We Must Never Let Anything Or Anyone:
 - Stop Our Mouths From Declaring "The Testimony Of God!"
 - Because We Still Have A Great Commission From God To "Preach The Gospel To Every Creature!"

- In 13:47 - Paul Quotes Another Old Testament Verse:
 - From Isaiah 49:6 - Which Is Sometimes Called:
 - The Old Testament's Great Commission!
 - And Back In Isaiah - This Verse Applied Specifically To The Messiah – To Jesus!
 - But Paul Understood That Christians Are Part Of The Body Of Christ:
 - And Jesus' Mission From God The Father Continues To Be Fulfilled Through His Body
 - His People – His Church!
- And So - Even From This Old Testament Commission:
 - We See That Christians - No Matter What Obstacles We Face - Are “Commanded” To Tell Others:
 - About The Light & Salvation That Comes Through Jesus!
 - And This Commission Has Never Changed!
 - But There Is Still An Obligation:
- For Unbelievers:
 - To Not Reject The Message Of The Gospel!
 - Isaiah 55:6 - “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near!”
 - But Instead - What Did These Jealous Jews Do?
 - 13:46 - They “Put It From” Them!
 - They Rejected Everything They Were Told About Jesus!
 - They Rejected:
 - Their Privilege As Jews!
 - “It Was Necessary That The Word Of God Should First Have Been Spoken To You!”
 - God's Purpose:
 - Of Forgiveness Through Jesus!
 - And Through Their Rejection:
 - They “Judged Themselves Unworthy Of Everlasting Life!”
 - They Passed Their Own Sentence!
 - And It Was Time For Paul & Barnabas To Move On!
- There Is Still An Obligation To The Word Of God & The Gospel!
 - We Still Must Obey The Great Commission Of The Lord:
 - Matthew 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. / Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: / Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”
 - And We Do Not Need To Be Ashamed!
 - But - We Need To Also Remember That:
 - Even Though Some Will Reject The Gospel, Yet Others Will Respond & Believe!
 - Which Is What We See In 13:48-49:

4. *A Great Occasion!*

- “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. / And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region!”
 - There Were Two Opposite Reactions To The Same Message:
 - The Jews Were Jealous:
 - And Did Not Believe!
 - But Many Of The Gentiles Were Glad:
 - And Believed!
 - There Was Gladness!
 - “They Were Glad!”
 - Not Because The Jews Rejected The Message:
 - But Because They – As Gentiles:
 - Were Offered The Message!
 - There Was Glorifying!
 - “And Glorified The Word Of The Lord!”
 - That Is - They Received The Message:
 - For What It Truly Was:
 - God's Word To Them!

- There Was Grace!
 - “As Many As Were Ordained to Eternal Life Believed!”
 - Many Believed In Jesus & The Gospel And Were Saved & Forgiven & Justified By God!
- The Thing Is - Paul & Barnabas:
 - Did Not Know Who Would Respond In Belief!
 - And Neither Do We!
 - But God Does!
 - He Chose Them & Appointed Them To Eternal Life!
- And This Gives Us A Great Motive For Sharing The Message:
 - God Has Many Who Must Still Come Into His Family!
 - And That Is Why We Must Not Be Ashamed To Keep Sharing The Gospel!
 - There Are Still More Fish In The Sea Of This World!
- There Was Growth!
 - 13:49 - “And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region!”
 - Probably By All Of Those New Believers!
 - Freely They Had Received!
 - Now It Was Their Turn To Freely Give!
 - And They Were Not Ashamed!
- There Are Still Great Occasions Like This!
 - And This Is Why We Must Continue To Spread The Net Of The Gospel As Widely As Possible!
 - Because We Don’t Know When Our Opportunities Will Come To An End!
 - Like It Did For Paul & Barnabas There In The City Of Antioch!

5. *A Great Offense!*

- 13:50 - “But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts!”
- There Was No Change In Those Jealous Jews!
 - Instead They Persuaded Others To Join Them:
 - And Persecute & Get Rid Of Paul & Barnabas!
 - The Door To Antioch Was Now Closed To Them!
- But What Did They Do?
 - They Kept Moving On!
 - Because They Were Not Ashamed!

Conclusion:

1. 13:51-52 - “But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. / And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost!”
 - In Ancient Times - When A Jew Would Travel To Foreign Lands:
 - And Among Other People:
 - When They Would Return Home - As They Crossed The Borders Into Israel:
 - They Would Stop & Take Off Their Sandals & Shake Off The Dust From Those Other Lands From Off Their Feet!
 - They Did Not Want To Desecrate:
 - Their Promised, Sacred Land Of Israel:
 - With Dust & Dirt From A Foreign & Godless Land!
 - When Paul & Barnabas Did This:
 - They Were Showing The Unbelieving Jews:
 - That They Were No Different Than The Unbelieving Gentiles There In Antioch!
 - And It Was Time For Them To Move On!
2. But Those Believers & Disciples Who Stayed:
 - Both Jews & Gentiles:
 - Grew! In Joy & In The Holy Spirit!
 - And The First Church Of Galatia:
 - Was Formed!
 - And They Were Not Ashamed!
3. We Must Not Be Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ!
 - The Same Gospel That Changed The Lives Of Many:
 - There In Antioch:

- Is The Same Gospel That Changed Our Lives!
 - And That Will Change The Lives Of Others!
- So - We Need To Keep Moving Forward!
 - Fulfilling The Great Commission Given To Us:
 - By The Lord!
- As Paul Wrote In 1 Corinthians 16:9:
 - “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries!”
 - But We Do Not Need To Be Ashamed:
 - But Bold In Our Witness & In The Opportunities Given To Us By The Lord!

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com