

ACTS 13; October 14; Ordained to Eternal Life Believed

ANALYSIS:

1. As the prophets and teachers fasted and prayed at Antioch, whom did the Holy Spirit choose to go forth and preach the gospel? _____
2. While on Cyprus, whom did Paul judge with blindness, and what resulted? _____
3. What promise of God did Paul preach in the synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia? _____
4. What happened the next Sabbath day at Antioch in Pisidia? _____
5. Who received and who rejected Paul and Barnabas' preaching of Christ? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The words, "and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (v 48), convey precious doctrine. The One who ordains, that is, assigns or appoints is the Eternal God. It is definitely not the creature man. "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him the runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Rom 9:16). He wills to give some the gift of eternal life. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 6:23b). As we look at the word believed, we see an action performed by those whom God ordained and to whom He has given eternal life.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). To others Jesus said, "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:26-28). Believing on Jesus as Savior and Lord is evidence and confirmation that God has called you. But faith or believing is not an end in itself. We are to give all diligence to make our calling and election sure by adding to faith: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. For if ye do these things ye shall never fall (II Pet 1:5-11).

Which of the above godly characteristics are you and I most lacking? Let us focus on how the Lord will surely help us add that our life and testimony. May the Lord Jesus Christ be praised by our growth!

HELP:

1. Barnabas and Saul (v 2).
2. A sorcerer who was a Jew named Bar-jesus or Elymas. The deputy Sergius Paulus of Cyprus believed (vs 6-12).
3. God's promise to Israel of raising up from the dead a seed of David to be a Savior (vs 23, 32-34).
4. Almost the whole city came to hear the word of God; but the Jews, filled with envy, contradicted and blasphemed what Paul preached (vs 44-45).
5. Received by some Jews, Gentiles who feared God and religious proselytes, as many as were ordained to eternal life. Rejected by envious Jews (vs 42-46; 50).