

The Way Growth of the Church

Lesson 10: Paul's First Missionary Journey - Perga to Antioch

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

The "Over Time" Spread of the Gospel...

- **30AD** Jesus Promises Empowerment from the Holy Spirit for the Gospel (Acts 1)
- **31AD** Church Scattered because of Stephen's Martyrdom (Acts 6-7)
- **34AD** Saul Converted/Commissioned to Take the Gospel to Gentiles (Acts 9)
- **37AD** Gentiles Receive First Witness of the Gospel from Peter (Acts 10)
- **42AD** Antioch Church Receives the Gospel/Barnabas Sent (Acts 11)
- **48AD** Paul, Barnabas, John Mark Launch First Missionary Journey (Acts 13)

Antioch > Seleucia (port) > Salamis on Cyprus > Paphos > Perga in Pamphylia



BIG Idea

We'll talk heavily about the "Gospel" today.

I feel we must be reminded of the content or the message of the gospel.

- **Who is Jesus?** He is the Christ (Savior, Deliverer, Lord, and King)
- **What has Jesus done?** Died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose from the dead. This is the work of salvation — what Christ did to save us.
- **Why has Jesus done this?** To forgive sin and bestow on you the benefits that come with salvation.
- **How can we know that it is true?** Because it fulfills the Old Testament Scriptures, and many eyewitnesses have testified to His resurrection.
- **How should we respond?** With repentance (that is, by turning to God) and faith.

"The gospel is about Jesus—what He did, His life of perfect obedience, His atoning death on the cross, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church." – R.C. Sproul

Information (What You Need to Know)

Glimpses of the Gospel on the First Missionary Journey...

▪ **The Gospel in Antioch in Pisidia** – *Example of Rejection*

Acts 13:14 (ESV) ...but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.

✓ Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue first

Acts 13:14 (ESV) ...And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. **15** After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.”

○ Paul taught that Jesus was the promised Savior

Acts 13:23 (ESV) “Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.”

○ Paul taught that forgiveness of sin came through Jesus, and not the law

Acts 13:38 (ESV) “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”

○ Many Gentiles accepted the Gospel, but many Jews rejected it

Acts 13:48 (ESV) And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. **49** And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. **50** But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

✓ Rejection of the Gospel did not discourage Paul and Barnabas

Acts 13:51 (ESV) But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

▪ **The Gospel in Iconium, Lystra and Derbe** – *Adaptation to Cultures*

✓ Gospel in Iconium

Acts 14:1 (ESV) Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. **2** But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. **3** So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. **4** But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

✓ **Gospel in Lystra** (Gentile city with no synagogues)

- Paul heals a man who is crippled

Acts 14:10 (ESV) [Paul] said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

- The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods

Acts 14:11 (ESV) And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” **12** Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

- Paul and Barnabas rejected their worship and taught them about God

Acts 14:15 (ESV) “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things [false gods] to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. **16** In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. **17** Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

“Paul didn’t preach to these pagan worshippers the same way he preached to Jews. He didn’t quote the Old Testament, but appealed to natural revelation, that even a pagan could understand by looking at the world.” – David Guzik

- Unbelieving Jews stirred up the crowd and they stoned Paul

Acts 14:19 (ESV) But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. **20** But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city...

✓ **Gospel in Derbe** (Gentile city with no synagogues)

Acts 14:20 (ESV) ...on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. **21** When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples...

■ **The Churches are strengthened in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia** – *Follow Up and Strengthening*

- They strengthened, encouraged, and warned of trials

Acts 14:21 (ESV) ...they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

- They appointed leadership (elders) in the churches

Acts 14:23 (ESV) And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Application (What You Need To Do):

Paul and Barnabas returned home to report to the Antioch church what God had done through them.

Acts 14:24 (ESV) Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. **25** And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, **26** and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. **27** And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.