

“HOW TO SPEAK FOR GOD”

Acts 14:1-7

INTRODUCTION

Amazing accuracy of Luke: Sir William Ramsay and Iconium being called a city of Phrygia whereas Lystra and Derbe are called cities of Lycaonia (v. 6). This is the point that set him on his journey to Asia Minor to examine the accuracy of Luke. Reality is that Iconium was only a Phrygian city from 37-72 AD; at any other period Luke’s statement would have been inaccurate!

Story of Paul and Thecla—Partly true, part fable. What we can glean from it:

- 1) Extraordinary Personal devotion inspired by Paul
- 2) A picture of missionary work and life
- 3) Illustration of the influential place of women in Asia Minor in the first century.
- 4) Explanation of the unpopularity of Christianity
 - Disturbing family life
 - Bound up with idolatrous customs
 - Low moral standards of the time—esp. sexual
- 5) Glorifies the virginity of Thecla; this passage in Acts glorifies _____ and focuses on the _____ of Paul.
- 6) Paul’s personal appearance: “ moderate height, scanty hair, bow-legged, with large eyes, meeting eyebrows, and rather a long nose.”

The pulpit of Berean Baptist Church must promote the kind of preaching practiced by Paul.

- I. _____ PREACHING (1)
“Spoke in such a manner” —*Not stressing technique as such* (see I Cor. 1:17; 2:4)
Christ did not send me to preach the Gospel “in cleverness of speech.”
“My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”
A Great Multitude believed
The power was in the TRUTH and in the work of THE HOLY SPIRIT.
Preach---Reach---Each]
- II. _____ PREACHING: Jews and Greeks
- III. _____ PREACHING (v. 2)
 - Unbelieving Jews opposed: The word for “unbelief” also means “to disobey.”
 - Stirred up the minds—souls—of the Gentiles
 - “Embittered them against the brethren (apostles and believers?)
 - Straightforward Gospel preaching will be opposed. “Woe to you if all men speak well of you.”
 - There is continuity between vv. 2&3—opposition doesn’t stop!

- IV. _____ PREACHING (v. 3)—“Therefore they spent a long time there.”
- V. _____ PREACHING (3)—“Speaking Boldly”
- VI. _____ PREACHING (v. 3)—“With reliance on the Lord” and their message “grounded in the Lord.”
- VII. PREACHING _____ BY GOD (3b)
- The Lord bears witness
 - His Word is “the word of **His grace**.”
 - He granted “signs and wonders be done by their hands.”
- VIII. PREACHING _____ PEOPLE (4)
- “The multitude of the city was divided”—the majority did not become believers.
 - Some were **for** the Lord and His messengers—“the apostles.”
 - Some were **for** the Jews. **People must choose sides!**
 - **See Luke 12:51**—“Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division.” This must happen.
 - The word “division” is *schidzo*.
- IX. PREACHING _____ BY OPPONENTS (5)
- Violent intent and attempt
 - Enemies combine forces against the Gospel: Jews and their rulers, Gentiles; cf. the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus’ time.
 - “To mistreat” and “to stone them”
- X. PREACHING _____ ITS TESTIMONY (v. 6)
- They “became aware” of the plot.
 - They “fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region.” See Jesus’ instructions in Mt. 10:23.
 - Many early believers had a desire for martyrdom; these apostles show us that we ought to preserve our preaching opportunity as long as possible.
- XI. PREACHING THAT _____ IN ANOTHER AREA (7)

CONCLUSION

READ II TIM. 4:1-2—This passage shows that Paul followed his commands to Timothy.