



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

PAUL'S MISSION – PART 2

ACTS 14-15

Remember, **ACTS 13-19** are Paul's first, second and third missionary journeys.

We continue on with the cities that Paul started churches in and the problems that they each faced.

A. Iconium—Division Time **ACTS 14:1-7**

B. Lystra—Delusion Time **ACTS 14:8-20**

- On his *second missionary journey*, Paul enlisted Timothy in Lystra (**ACTS 16:1-5**) and he visited this church on his *third journey* as well. **ACTS 18:23**

NOTE THE FOUR DIFFERENT RESPONSES DURING THIS VISIT TO LYSTRA.

Ministry is often beyond busy/crowded.

- 1. The crippled man's response to the Word v. 8-10**
- 2. The crowd's response to the crippled man v. 11-13**
- 3. The apostles' response to the crowd v. 14-19**
- 4. The disciples' response to Paul v. 20**

C. Antioch in Syria—Declaration Time **ACTS 14:21-28**

On their return trip to Antioch, the missionaries were engaged in several important ministries.

1. They preached the Gospel and made disciples.
2. They strengthened (confirmed) the believers in the things of Christ.
3. They organized the churches.
4. They reported to their “sending church” on the work God had done.

This is perhaps the first “missionary conference” in church history, and what a conference it must have been!

GET BUSY OR GET OUT OF THE WAY— DON'T BLOCK THE DOOR! **ACTS 15**

The progress of the Gospel has often been hindered by people with closed minds who stand in front of open doors and block the way for others.

1. The Dispute ACTS 15:1-5

2. The Defense ACTS 15:6-18

- In this public discussion, four key leaders presented the case for keeping the doors of grace open to the lost Gentiles.

It appears that at least four different meetings were involved in this strategic conference:

- Peter reviewed the past **v. 6-11**
- Paul and Barnabas reported on the present **v. 12**
- James related it all to the future **v. 13-18**

At the time of the Jerusalem Conference, David's house and throne indeed were fallen; but they will be restored one day and the kingdom established.

3. The Decision **ACTS 15:19-35**

What did this decision accomplish in a practical way? At least three things:

- First, it strengthened the unity of the church and kept it from splitting into two extreme “Law” and “grace” groups.
- Second, this decision made it possible for the church to present a united witness to the lost Jews. **ACTS 15:21**
- Third, this decision brought blessing as the letter was shared with the various Gentile congregations.

A TEAM IS BETTER THAN SOLO **ACTS 15:36-41**

Some final lessons:

- Here were two dedicated men who had just helped bring unity to the church, and yet they could not settle their own disagreements!
- Good, well-meaning and godly people in the church do disagree, a painful fact of ministry life.
- *God may change His workmen, but His work goes right on.* Now there were *two* missionary teams instead of one!