

ACTS 13:42-52

SIX RESULTS OF PAUL'S MESSAGE ON JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

The crux of Paul's initial message in a synagogue at Antioch (Pisidia) is found in 13:38, 39. Here he clearly announces that forgiveness of sins is solely through Jesus Christ's work on the cross; that anyone who simply believes this message is justified once-for-all from all things, that is, declared righteous in an absolute sense by God; and furthermore, no one can be justified in this sense by the Law of Moses, that is, by good works. Though highly offensive to Jews and anyone working for salvation, many, realizing their personal sinfulness, respond positively as the following verses indicate.

1. **Result #1, v. 42, 43:** Many Jews and Gentiles _____ (Paul and Barnabas) for more _____ of these _____.

Note the verbs of verses 42 and 43:

- v. 42 "*they kept* _____:" the verb is imperfect active indicative. "they" = "Gentiles" in the majority text; "the people" in the critical text.
- v. 43 "*they followed*" Paul and Barnabas
- v. 43 Paul and Barnabas "*persuaded*" them to abide in the grace of God. ("Follow-up" words are often necessary!).

2. **Result #2, v. 44:** Massive _____ interest in the Word of God that emphasized God's _____.

WHY DID PAUL'S MESSAGE SO PROFOUNDLY MOVE THIS CITY?

- a. Because it dealt with the _____ of life!
- b. Because it dealt emphatically with man's _____ and his relation to God.
- c. Because it dealt with God's only answer to man's sin.
- d. Because it dealt with absolute righteousness (security) with God.

Note some things his message did not deal with.

3. **Result #3, v. 45-47:** Jewish _____ (aroused by Gentile interest), then verbal _____ and _____ of the words of Paul.

v. 46-47 Paul and Barnabas clarify the significance of this response to the gospel of grace:

- "*you put* (thrust away, reject, repudiate) *God's word*"
- "*you judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life*"
- "*we turn to the Gentiles*" as Isaiah predicted (Isaiah 42:6,7)

This pattern of events reproduces itself almost everywhere Paul went (18:6 at Corinth; 19:8,9 at Ephesus; 26:28 at Rome).

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4. **Result #4, v. 48:** Many Gentiles _____ and _____ the word of the Lord (in context, the message of salvation by grace through faith).

“believed” = aorist active indicative of πιστευω/pisteuo: the verb stands first in the sentence.
- salvation from the human side: human responsibility in view

“as many as were ordained to eternal life” = a plural perfect periphrastic construction
- salvation from the divine side: omniscience and foreknowledge of God in view
- foreknowledge is not causative: God’s foreknowledge did not cause them to believe.

5. **Result #5, v. 49:** Extended evangelism by believers.

“was published” = Imperfect passive indicative of διαφέρω/diaphero; “to carry through,” “to spread through”: the word of the Lord kept on being spread through the entire region.

6. **Result #6, v. 50:** Persecution : Paul and Barnabas _____ from Antioch.

Think of their conversation as they walked the 80-90 miles east to Iconium!

v. 52 The disciples left behind in Antioch of Pisidia _____ filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. The persecutions did not diminish appreciation of their salvation.

Summary

Paul’s initial pronouncement of the Gospel in Antioch produced a variety of responses: some received it with great joy, some rejected it, some vehemently blasphemed and actively exercised their wrath by getting Paul and Barnabas kicked out of town.

Application: Should we expect anything less? Some will believe, some will reject, and some will actively persecute those who accurately tell others how to be saved and how not to be saved. None of these responses should diminish the joy that the Holy Spirit produces in those who walk in fellowship with the Lord.