

Acts 13:44-52

Salvation is of the LORD

Curiosity v44

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the Word of the Lord.

This isn't a surprise considering the initial interest in (a good) many in the synagogue the previous week (v42-43)

Conflict v45

But when the Jews [that is the Jewish leaders of the Synagogue] saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict...

The "Reason" People Give for Their Thoughts/Actions Often Isn't the Real Reason
The Real Reason for Their Opposition: Personal Jealousy/Envy
The Overt Reason: "Protecting" the People from "Heresy"

Consequence v46-48

(Despite this opposition) Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, it was necessary the Word of God be spoken first to you. (But) since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life we are turning to the Gentiles...

The Message Paraphrase: But Paul and Barnabas didn't back down. Standing their ground they said, it was required that God's Word be spoken first of all to you, the Jews. But seeing that you want no part of it and you've made it quite clear that you have no taste or inclination for eternal life, the door is open to all the outsiders.

...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.

Those who rejected the Gospel...

...thrust it aside (and at that time) judged themselves unworthy of eternal life

Those who received the Gospel...

...had (previously) been appointed to eternal life

1: Many great Christians who love the Lord just as much as you/I do have a different view about how all of this works! TBF has always welcomed believers of good will regardless of their specific views on these “under the hood” details

Calvinists: Key on God’s Sovereignty and Affirm

God Chose the Elect Unconditionally...and He Causes Them to Believe

Arminians: Key on Individual Human Responsibility and Affirm

God Chose Those He Knew Would Freely Believe

Amyraldians: Key on a Balance Between Sovereignty/Responsibility and Affirm

God’s Choice-Not Based on Foreknowledge But on His Purpose/Glory

But His Choice is Consistent with Choosing Only Those Who Would Believe

2: This is an area of truth/theology that is BIGGER than the human mind ala:

Is God ONE or is God THREE?

The Doctrine of the Trinity Says Both are True as Part of a Larger Reality

There is ONE God Who Exists in THREE distinct/co-equal Persons

“in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”

Is the Incarnate Christ God or is He Man?

The Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union Says: BOTH ATAPOALR*

The Incarnate Christ is ONE Person with TWO natures: the God-man

“in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form”

Is Scripture the Word of God or the Word of Man?

The Doctrine of Inspiration Says: Both ATAPOALR*

DUAL Authorship: The Word of God (Holy Spirit) and the Word of Man

In Salvation is God Sovereign or are Humans Truly Responsible?

Chafer, Swindoll, Lightner, Hoehner, Stanley et.al. BOTH ATAPOALR*

God is Sovereign in Salvation and Yet Humans are Responsible to Believe...

...and Held Accountable for Their Responses to God’s Grace

*BOTH ATAPOALR = Both are true as part of a larger reality

Continuation v49-52

And the Word of the Lord (continued to be) spreading throughout the region
Even though Paul/Barnabas were driven out of Antioch...

...but rather than quitting and going back home (ala Mark in Acts13:13)
...they went down the road to the next major city (Iconium) to share the Gospel

And in all of this:

The disciples (in/around Antioch) were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Take This To Heart

Salvation is of the LORD!

Those Who Receive Salvation in Christ
Have God to Praise...

...Those Who Reject Salvation in Christ
Have Themselves to Blame

As Augustine (a “Calvinistic” Thinker) Wisely Said

Let Us Pray as Though Everything Depended on God,
But Then Let Us Live/Work as Though Everything Depends on Us!

May TBFers of Calvinistic convictions, Arminian convictions, and of Amyraldian convictions, agree to disagree (in agape love) on the fine under the hood theological details of soteriology...and continue shoulder to shoulder to love/live/serve our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ