

Acts 14:21-28

The End (of the 1st M-Journey) Was Just the Beginning

The First Missionary Journey Acts 13:4-14:28 4/48AD to 9/49AD

Validated the Fact That the New Testament Church Was the Vehicle God Was Pleased to Use to Bring Salvation to All Who Believed (13:38-39) in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...both Jews and Gentiles

After a Close Bush with Death, Paul (and Barnabas) Present the Gospel to the People of Derbe and Made Many New Disciples in that City 14:21a

They Then Revisited the Churches in Lystra, Iconium & Antioch 14:21b-23
To strengthening the souls/psuche of the disciples

The word translated “soul” (ψυχη) can refer to “the soul” or to “things related to the soul/the spiritual life” as here or to “the self” or generically “to people/human beings” (“there were 101 souls on the Mayflower”)

(by) encouraging them to continue in the faith (despite pain/problems and persecution) = **Human Responsibility**

(by) appointing Elders in each of those churches and commending them to the Lord in whom they had believed = **Divine Sovereignty**

Important!

Notice: “Elders [plural] in each church [singular]”

The Local Church is too important to be ruled by any one person

Apostles (much less Pastors) can't “do spiritual growth/perseverance for anybody else...and ultimately it happens because believers access the Lord's strength through abiding in Christ

Finally, They Returned to their Home Base (the Church in Antioch of Syria) Spreading the Good News as They Traveled 14:24-26

Interesting Fact: They didn't revisit Cyprus?

Intriguing Theory: Hear it at TBF on 9/27 or access it tbfduncan.org

Does Prayer Meeting Really Matter?

Credit where credit is due: Paul and Barnabas were “the astronauts” privileged to ride in the “missionary module” but the success of their work involved much more than simply the efforts and investment of blood, sweat and tears of those two men....it included the supporting and praying work of the believers in their home/sending local church.

After Returning, Paul and Barnabas Glorified God and His Grace by Briefing the Church about How the Gospel Had Been Received by Many People Including Gentiles 14:27-28

What Church “Mission Trip Reports” Should Be/Do

“they began to report all things that GOD had done (DS) with/thru them (HR) ” AND “how HE opened (DS) a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Testimonies: Yes!

What God did with us/thru us and how He opened doors for us!

Bragimonies: No

They were “lucky” to have me and my seminary degree!

What's the Difference?

Who is the hero? Who is the focus of the report?

Take This To Heart

Q: Where/How Does God Work? A: Wherever/However He Chooses Consistent with His Character. However Scripture Emphasizes the Heart of the Program of God Rests in the New Testament Church of Jesus Christ. Believers in the 1st Century and in the 21st Century are to Love Christ and Promote His Program By Loving and Serving His Church.