BAD ADVICE FROM A GOOD MAN

Acts 5:34-42

Introduction:

A. The Apostles have defied the counsel.
   1) "we ought to obey God rather than men"
   2) The council plans their death

B. The council is then addressed by Gamaliel Vs. 34
   1) "doctor of the law" = nomodidaskalos = a law teacher, an expounder of the Jewish law. Luke 5:17, I Tim. 1:7
   2) Paul's teacher Acts 22:3
   3) A man of reputation = timios = "valued"
   4) considerate, "put the Apostles forth a little space"
   5) A Pharisee. The High Priest was a Sadducee 17
   6) A cautious man Vs. 35

C. By every standard, Gamaliel was a good man who was capable of giving good advice.
   1) He was well educated.
   2) He was valued by his peers.
   3) He had age.

I. His Advice Was Bad Because Gamaliel Made An Erroneous Comparison Vs. 36-37

A. Theudas, the boaster Vs. 36
   1) "boast" = lego = "to speak or say"
   2) A man who could draw 400 followers

B. Judas of Galilee Vs. 37
   1) An insurrectionist against Rome
   2) A Patriot
C. He sought to compare the followers of Jesus with bandits and patriots
   1) They represented different kingdoms
   2) They relied on different power
   3) They sought different ends

II. His Advice Was Bad Because it Was Based on a Foolish Standard  Vs. 38-39
A. The standard of success was by a standard other than truth
   1) If of men, it will come to nought
   2) The devil's work may succeed

B. He believed that appearance was an adequate standard of judgment.
   1) "But if it be of God"
   2) Many people being saved does not prove anything other than God
      honors His word where ever and whenever it is preached.
   3) Philippians 1:14-18

III. His Advice Was Bad Because it Was Based on Putting Things Off
A. We cannot afford to wait to see how things turn-out when we have
   His word.
   1) The truth challenged them to do what was right.
   2) Truth calls for action.

B. Procrastination my answer a question, but it may close the door to
   opportunity.
   1) Is there life after death?
   2) Is there a literal burning hell?
   3) Does Jesus really judge the saved?

IV. His Advice Was Bad Because it Didn't Work   Vs. 40-42
A. The council's response to it
   1) They agreed to it
   2) They beat the Apostles
   3) They commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus
B. The Apostles response to it

1) They rejoiced

2) They continued to do what the Lord had commanded them to do.