

BAD ADVICE FROM A GOOD MAN

Acts 5:34-42

Introduction:

- A. The Apostles have defied the council.
 - 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 Sadduce 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 devils 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.

