THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AT WORK

Acts 13:1-12

Introduction:

A. If we are to know how anything works it is infinitely helpful to have a working model.
   1) This may be a "demonstrator"
   2) Early patents required one!

B. In these scriptures we have a working model of the early church
   1) It does not teach us all that they did
   2) It is very helpful to all of us

I. The Church had the Right Personnel Vs. 1

   A. "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch"
      1) prophets = prophetes = "a proclaimer of a divine message"
      2) Teachers = didaskalos = "an instructor"
      3) They had won some "notable people"

   B. There were no modern "ministers"
      1) None directed at one thing or one group - All directed to the body
      2) Ministers of Education, Youth, Maintenance

II. The Church did the Right Things Vs. 2

   A. "As they ministered to the Lord......"
      1) "ministered" = leitourgeo = "to serve", "do service"
      2) They sought to serve God
      3) Today people want God to serve them!
      4) I Chron. 29:1 - "......for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God"

   B. "and fasted"
      1) "fasted" = nesteuo = "to abstain from eating"
      2) They fasted and prayed, we feast and play
C. The Holy Spirit directed them       Vs. 2
   1) "separate" = aphorizo = "to mark off with a boundary", (This indicates
      to set a limit)
   2) These people were instructed by the Holy Spirit
   3) Their work had already been set

D. They were cautious       Vs. 3
   1) "fasted and prayed"
   2) laid their hands on them
   3) They sent their own men out as missionaries - "A church does the
      churches work best."  Supreme Court Judge of Norway

III. Their Sent-ones Did the Right Thing

A. They went       Vs. 4
   1) "departed" = katerchomai = "to come or go down"
   2) "sailed" = apoleo = "to depart by ship"

B. They preached       Vs. 5
   1) "preached" = kataggeliao = "to bring word down upon anyone", "to bring
      it home to any one"

C. They challenged error       Vs. 6-12
   1) Bar-Jesus = Elymas = sorcer
   2) Sergius Paulus = deputy of the country

D. God blessed their efforts
   1) Vs. 12