

THE POWER OF THE PUBLISHED WORD

Acts 13:42-52...vs. 49

Introduction:

A. We know the Bible describes itself

- 1) It is quick and powerful, (a sword)
- 2) It is a hammer, not an anvil
- 3) It is fire

B. In these verses we see something of the "published" word Vs. 49

- 1) "published" = diaphero = "to bear or carry through a place or country"
- 2) These men were carrying the truth

I. It Has Power to Interest Vs. 42

A. The gentiles wanted more preaching

- 1) "the people earnestly begged to have all of this repeated,  
"between the sabbath"
- 2) Only those who were conscious of it's nature and power made such  
a request Vs. 41

B. They desired Paul and Barnabas to continue Vs. 43

- 1) "persuaded" = peitho = "win by words", "influence"
- 2) "continue in the grace of God"

II. It Has Power to Attract Vs. 43

A. "Almost the whole city"

- 1) "to hear the word of God"

B. The Truth of God can draw people

- 1) Why doesn't it today?



III. It Has the Power to Create Strife Vs. 45

A. The Jews were envious of the crowd

- 1) "they were filled with envy"
- 2) they spoke against the truth
- 3) they "contradicted and blasphemed"
- 4) antilego = "to speak in opposition"

B. The truth often angers

- 1) Especially when it succeeds
- 2) Larry Flynt, Falwell, media angered

IV. It Has Power to Give Everlasting Life Vs. 46-47

A. It was necessary for them to hear it

- 1) They were to be an example Vs. 47
- 2) They heard it first

B. They judged themselves unworthy of Everlasting Life! Vs. 48

- 1) "seeing you put it from you"
- 2) "lo, we turn to the Gentiles"

V. It Has the Power to Bring Gladness Vs. 48

A. The Gentiles attitude toward the Word

- 1) They were glad to hear it  
kairo = "to rejoice", "to be delighted", "eager"
- 2) They glorified it  
doxazo = "to recognize", "honour", "praise", "to give importance"
- 3) They believed it, all of it especially God's acceptance of the Gentiles.  
They had already been appointed to eternal life, they believed all.

VI. It Has the Power to Bring Persecution Vs. 50

A. The Jews stirred up people

- 1) "stirred" = parotruno = "to urge on by or along with something else",  
"incite" - They influenced the most respected and well-to-do women  
who worshipped at the synagogue.
- 2) "and the outstanding men of the city"

B. They raised persecution against them

- 1) "persecution" = diogmos = "pursuit, as of enemies"
- 2) "expelled" = ekballo = "to throw out"

VII. It Has the Power of an Adequate Witness Vs. 51

A. They shook off the dust of their feet

- 1) A token of no further responsibility
- 2) Luke 9:5 - "And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of  
that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a  
testimony against them."

B. They left the city

- 1) What else can one do?
- 2) The Bible preached is sufficient

VIII. It Has the Power to Bring Joy Vs. 52

A. They were filled with joy

- 1) They possessed only the truth
- 2) Nothing else was necessary
- 3) Nothing else is necessary to those who love the truth

B. They were filled with the Holy Spirit

- 1) What does this mean?
- 2) Is it to have power or to shun power?
- 3) To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to produce the fruit of the  
Spirit and to exercise the gifts of the Spirit.

IX. What Does the "Published Word" Mean to You?

A. We have come to assume that people do not and cannot love the word of God.

- 1) We have set our standards of success
- 2) We want what we want!

B. Paul and Barnabas had great success here in Antioch of Pisidia

- 1) He later wrote to Timothy
- 2) "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine"

C. Would you?

- 1)

