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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

"These are unedited quick-notes posted daily. We apologize for any grammatical or spelling errors"

**--You'll find the formatting change as the commentary moves beyond 1/2014--**

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Acts

C 13-15

C13 Vss 1- Among the prophets and teachers at Antioch God calls on them to launch Paul and Barnabas. It's not clear how The Lord conveyed this. Perhaps it was a suggestion or a desire in these men's hearts administers by the Holy Spirit (1-3).

Paul begins His first missionary campaign. They went to the synagogue to preach the word and Like records John-Mark was with them. Saul at this point becomes Paul and judges Bar-Jesus who was interfering with their efforts to convert the Governor.

It's a dangerous thing to interfere with the work of God. Paul confronts him and he is stricken blind. The gone not becomes a believer . The strategy the enemy was using to keep the Governor from believing backfired (9-12).

Mark leaves them as they head for Pamphylia. Paul stands in the Synagogue when asked to five words and Stephen-like he gives a brief history if the Hebrews ultimately arriving to Jesus whom God raised from the dead. Many believer and started following them (15-45).

Nevertheless there were Jews who hated them for all the adulation. So they turned to the Gentiles. Jesus said if or when they don't receive you move on ( . ). Gentiles embraced the faith readily (45-52).

C14 Vss 1- Like records them at Iconium. They stayed a long time in spite of the opposition. No person in ministry will ever do anything of value in the kingdom obeying the voice of the haters. They were proven true by their signs (1-3).

This is the ultimate confirmation in ministry. Results! They were about To be killed but escaped. Again, the objective is to keep the message alive as much as possible.

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There are times when martyrdom is not escapable. But to the degree necessary, the keeping the message bearers alive to carry the message is critical.

The fellow with crippled feet had faith enough to be healed. Paul told him to stand! If the man didn't think he could stand, he wouldn't be able to stand. People always want to idolize men and this is what onlookers did. No matter how much men and women may love being admired they must resist it (8-13).

Paul is flogged when some antagonist Jews arrive (19-20). But Paul and Barnabas are not deterred. Reminding the saints they must suffer hardship.

Sacrifice and physical persecution is one of the themes of the early believers. They return to Antioch in Syria ending the first campaign.

C15 Vss 1- The major topic when they return is circumcision. Good Jews have the foreskin of their sexual genitalia removed. So the Jews were teaching that they had to be circumcised. Thank God for Paul and Barnabas both circumcised Jews. They disagreed completely. The final decision in Jerusalem was that it was not necessary.

But Gentiles were to abstain from sex sin, drinking blood and similar conditions. They did not want to make it difficult for Gentiles (6-21). A policy letter is distributed to the Gentile believers concerning their decision. This demonstrates the administrative ability of the movement. It was not some undisciplined, ignorant enterprise (23-31).

The introduction of Judas and Silas as prophets encouraging believers. Note how common the name Judas occurs. Preparing for the second campaign Barnabas wants to take Mark again and Paul disagrees. It was very contentious.

Both parties had good points. A campaign requires absolute faithfulness. When a person terminated their involvement like Mark did it can work to discourage others. Conversely, persons need to be given other opportunities. More, importantly, they both go on with new partners (36-40). Barnabas takes Mark. Paul takes Silas.

C16 Vss 1- Luke records Paul's second campaign. Here he introduces Timothy (name-honoring God). He already had a zeal for The Lord as a believer who was a Jewish-Greek. He agreed to be circumcised. Wow (1-5)!

Note there were certain areas the Holy Spirit did not allow them to operate. This is so important to recognize. Timing is important. So every instance is not a time to evangelize or share the Gospel. We see this reality in other places in Scripture. Whether it is casting pearls before swine or disingenuous requests, there needs to be a discernment of the time (6-8).

But The Lord will have places or opportunities ready. They receive the call from Macedonia (9-10).

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They head to Philippi. Lydia the business woman is converted. She was ready. She provided living quarters. They agreed. We can see Paul was not some woman hater. She was a woman in business. He didn't treat her as if she should not be in business where she was obviously a leader. We'll return to this later (13-15).

Next Luke records their encounter with a demon possessed girl as in his Gospel, Luke combines topics with common themes. So, after the business-woman here's another experience with a girl who made money for her business owner. She followed them for days. Shouting Godly accolades. However, it was over-the-top. Simply because someone is shouting things godly does not mean they are of God. Often persons are doing a disservice. Credibility is important to any movement.

Paul exorcises the demon in the girl. She can't make money any longer so they are thrown in jail. Simply because we are doing what God calls us to do, does not mean we will be greeted as heroes. They were placed in the inner prison. How would these men respond. They responded with worship. They were praying and singing. Imagine the testimony. The jail was shaken and doors flew open.

The jailer knew he would be executed for such a failure, but Paul called out to him to spare himself. The jailer came running to Paul. The jailer wanted to know what he must do to be saved.

Their "act" of staying in the prison became an testimony bring the man to a decision. Immediately, they told him what to do. Embrace Jesus!  
The whole family is saved. The city officials wanted them released but Paul and Silas desired legal restitution they were beaten without trial due for all Romans. The officials are shocked to discover they are Roman citizens. The more credentialing a person has gives credibility and points of relationship or standing.

Later Paul will proclaim to Timothy about being all things for all people. These relational points is what he is alluding too (.)

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