

"The Missionary Church"  
Acts 14:21-28

**TT-** Here we see Paul and Barnabas at Derbe and their return to Antioch. Here we see 4 tasks of a Missionary church: (1) Reach, (2) Teach, (3) Plant, and (4) Report.

**I. Reach-** preaching the gospel (14:21a).

1. What is the message of the church?

It's not a social gospel, a good fellowship, a good pastor, a great choir, feel better about yourself, come as you are, we are a loving people, give them what they want and entertain them.

It is the good news that Jesus saves. They preached Jesus and He changed their lives (Matt 28:18-20).

One Bible teacher points out: A proper missionary program has as its aim the establishing on the field of self-governing, self-sustaining, self-propagating churches.

2. Notice two key strategies of Paul's witnessing.

With the gentiles he began in big cities and instructed the people to take the gospel to the remote areas. He usually began with the God of creation.

With the Jews he began at the synagogue and in the O.T. scriptures. "I have become all things to all men that I might win some."

**I. Reach-** preaching the gospel (14:21a).

**II. Teach-** They built up the saints (14:21b-22). "three thoughts"

1. They confirmed the disciples (22a). Strengthen

They established and supported them in the Word of God, teaching and calling for obedience (Matt 28:20). They did this corporately and privately.

It is called "follow-up" or "discipleship" or "mentoring." They grounded them in the Word of God.

1. They confirmed the disciples (22a).

2. They exhorted them in the faith (v. 22b).

"To continue in the faith" It does not mean to **not stop** believing, but a warning to **continue to grow** (confirming). Notice it does not say continue in **your faith** but **the faith** (Acts 15:32, 41; 2:42; John 8:31-21; Heb 3:6; Matt 10:38; 2 Tim 2:12; 3:12).

However, continuance is proof of salvation. We are not saved because we continue but we continue because we are saved. Mere professors will not continue proving they were not believers but apostates. These are the ones many believe lost their salvation!

**Ex:** William Tyndale...

1. They confirmed the disciples (22a).
2. They exhorted them in the faith (v. 22b).
3. They gave them the promise of persecution (v. 22c).

It was not "your best life now" teaching. "We must through much tribulation" is not being taught in many churches.

The **EBC** says, "The suffering and glory exemplified in Jesus' life must be theirs as well if they are to know the full measure of the reign of God in their lives and the future kingdom."

- I. Reach-** preaching the gospel (14:21).
- II. Teach-** They built up the saints (14:22).
- III. Plant-** They planted churches and trained leadership (14:23).

1. The church is an spiritual organism that must be organized.

"I don't believe in organized religion" "Don't want a commitment.

They ordained or "appointed" leaders to lead the church. These Elders, Pastors and bishops are the same office (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5, 7; 1 Thess 5:12; 1 Tim 3:1, 5 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17).

2. They commended them to the Lord (v.23b).

- I. Reach-** preaching the gospel.
- II. Teach-** They built up the saints.
- III. Plant-** They planted churches and trained leadership.
- IV. Report-** They reported to their sending church (14:27-28).

1. They were sent out from Antioch and went back to Antioch. They reported what God is doing around the world.

2. v.27- It was not what they had done for **God**, but what **He** had been pleased to accomplish through them.

What is a missionary church? reach, teach, plant, and report.