

## **Acts 13:1-3 \ The Workers and the Work**

4-14-24 @ RCBC

*"No one can stop the Gospel or the church birthed from the Gospel."* – Jason Hamilton

Remember: we're not just studying a historical narrative; it's much more than that.

**What we see in Acts is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unfolding just as was promised.**

The 3-stage process of God in Acts:

- Stage 1 - in *Jerusalem* [Acts 2-7]
- Stage 2 - in *Judea and Samaria* [Acts 8-12]
- Stage 3 - to *the ends of the earth* [Acts 13-28]

*"Through the ministry of Saul, God's mission to reclaim His creation from the death grip of evil would move to its next stage."* - Charles Swindoll

**If you are filled with the Spirit & continuing to be taught by the Word of God, you will not be \_\_\_\_\_.**

You may be in a season of learning, correcting, preparation, or healing. But if you love Jesus and are growing in Him, God's not done with you.

*"maintenance mentality"* = focusing on maintaining a kind of "religious club" and spending a bulk of our time and resources preserving its sacred traditions and we forget about our calling to go to the lost.

*"The book of Acts is a constant indictment of mere maintenance Christianity. It's a constant goad and encouragement and stimulation to fan the flame of Advent - The Son of Man who has come to seek and to save the lost."* - John Piper

Church leadership in *critical* and *convicting* things:

- worship of the Lord [v.1]
- fasting [v.1]
- prayer [v.3]
- fasting (again) [v.3]

Biblical fasting means abstaining from food for a certain length of time in order to express dependance on God and submission to His will. It's going without food in order to seek God for a special reason.

*"We resort to fasting out of a deep sense of our weakness and need in order to seek God in a more urgent, earnest, and heartfelt manner for something of great importance to us or to His kingdom."* - Thomas Tarrants

Out of humility and a sense of our own weakness, we come before God, asking Him to do something that we know we cannot.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are set apart by God.**

*"You can't really say 'yes' to God's call on your life until you say 'no' to the things that will keep you from that call."* - David Guzik

2 Cor. 6:17, *"Therefore, go out from their midst, and be separate from them."*

Barnabas and Saul are not operating in the same stream as the world around them. They were already set apart in lifestyle before the God set them apart for service. If you have been saved by grace, you have been "called out" of this dark world but remain in it as the light of Christ, the fragrance of life. (2 Cor. 2:15-17)

Sometimes we get so worked up about wanting to know God's plan for our future that we fail to obey Him in the present.

*"Many of us are extremely passive and cowardly. We don't take risks for God because we are obsessed with safety, security, and most of all with the future." - Kevin DeYoung in Just Do Something*

***"An important feature in discerning God's will for our future is to do His will in the present."*** - John MacArthur

The *workers* were set apart by God and their *work* was set apart by God. *But what work?*

It's already been demonstrated for us time & time again in Acts:

- Perseverance in the face of persecution.
- Bold preaching in the face of unyielding tradition.
- Rest in the midst of turmoil.
- The faithful preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Work is done whether you're the one called to service or you're part of the sending church.*

**God has planned that Gospel ministry flows through the \_\_\_\_\_.**

God's people are always about God's business, and if His business is spreading the fame of His glory to the ends of the earth, then that's what God's people should be about, too. And if we're in that *together*, then ministry flows from God's people *in the Church*.

For the first time, we see a planned effort to take the Gospel to the world – *to the Gentiles*.

God saves people from death to life, and those who've been saved to life enjoy sharing it.

The Church is the gathering of those saved by grace through faith, and while the Lord tarries in His return, we spend our time proclaiming His glory and goodness to the world.

### **Ephesians 3:1-13**

Additional Notes: \_\_\_\_\_