

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1142

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PART 31: FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP INTO ASIA MINOR

Luke does not tell us what Paul and Barnabas were thinking, he simply records where they went and what they did in the different cities, but it is obvious that they were led by the Holy Spirit.

Asia Minor is a region that was also known as Anatolia and was part of the Roman Empire. The region consisted of a number of provinces which had earlier been small kingdoms. The entire region today is known as Turkey. The Gospel would be firmly planted in this region but there is no remnant left today of the churches Paul and Barnabas started. All that is left are ruins still standing in different places.

LEAVING CYPRESS

We don't know how long Paul and Barnabas stayed in Paphos. We just know that the apostles later purchased tickets on a ship that was heading for Perga in the province of Pamphylia. **Acts 13:13**

CONFLICT IN PERGA

There is no recording that the Gospel was preached in this city but Luke tells us that John Mark left them and returned unto Jerusalem. There must have been a conflict because we are later told that Paul felt that John Mark had deserted them, and when Barnabas insisted that John Mark be invited to go again with them, Paul and Barnabas stopped being friends and split up. This tells us that Paul had a short temper and he was not willing to forgive John Mark for his desertion. **Acts 15:36-39**

It was not until the end of his ministry that Paul forgave John Mark and relied upon the ministry of this man. **2 Timothy 4:11**

What we should learn is that *anger* and *unforgiveness* destroyed the friendship between two of the apostles and the New Testament doesn't tell us if it was ever resolved on this earth. **Matthew 6:14-15**

We don't know how much this weakened the ministry of Paul but it must have cost him much. Paul never wrote anything about this situation but the apostle James addressed it. **James 3:13-18**

My personal speculation is that the desertion and argument that took place in Perga had a negative effect upon Paul and Barnabas and they left the city without preaching the Gospel. Thus, people in Perga were robbed of hearing the Gospel and went to hell because men of God had a conflict among themselves. Their anger and personal feelings cost a number of people eternal life in heaven!



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This is a terrible sin which is being repeated century after century and is still with us today. **Ezekiel 3:17-19**

ARRIVING IN ANTIOCH

Antioch was a city located in the province of Pisidia and had the same name as the city of Antioch in Lebanon. As their custom was, Barnabas and Paul went to the local synagogue and were invited to speak. **Acts 13:14-15**

ANOTHER NEW TESTAMENT SERMON

The synagogue in this city must have been more liberal in its outlook on Gentiles because there were converted Gentiles attending their services. **Acts 13:16**

Paul delivered a classic sermon which we should heed and learn from. **verses 17-41**

The interesting thing is that the Gentiles took more interest in the Gospel than the Jews. **verses 42-44**

THE AWAKENING

Despite the problems Paul and Barnabas had encountered in Perga, the Holy Spirit moved, convicted people of their sins and saved them. **verses 45-49**

This tells us that the Holy Spirit will honor the Word of God, even if it is preached by men who have unconfessed sin in their lives. Mark wrote this in his Gospel account. **Mark 16:15-20**

JEWISH PERSECUTION

With the salvation of thousands of Gentiles, the Jewish leadership could not tolerate it and the persecution started; Paul would encounter persecution until his departure from this world. **Acts 13:50-52**

JUDAISM IS NOT A BENIGN RELIGION

From the time of the murder of Jesus until now, Jewish leaders are determined to destroy Christianity at any cost. They are not any better than the Muslims who scream, "Death to the infidels (unbelievers)!"

We should seriously heed the words spoken by Jesus. **Matthew 23:13-15**

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?