

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 5

Law/Gospel

When I despise the preaching of God's Word, do not hold it sacred, and do not gladly hear and learn it, I sin and support Satan's cause. **The gates of hell will not prevail against the Church and God's Word, through which sinners are converted and in which I receive the grace of God.**

Bible Words

[Jesus said,] "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."
Matthew 28:19

Fun Facts

We can trust the eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in the New Testament. All New Testament books were written before all the apostles died in AD 100.

We have 5,686 ancient Greek copies of these works and over 19,000 copies in other languages. Many date to the third century, others to the second and first centuries.

No other ancient documents have that many copies from sources so close to the events. For example, we only have 7 ancient copies from Greek scholar Plato, 49 from Aristotle, and 643 of Homer's *The Iliad*. Most date to 900 years or more after the subject's death.

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13–14

The persecution of the Church after Stephen's death scattered Jerusalem's Christians as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch in Syria. Believers shared the Word of Christ with other Jews. In Antioch, they first witnessed to Greeks, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Disciples were first called Christians or "little Christs" there.

Hearing this, the apostles in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he saw that the Holy Spirit gave faith to non-Jews too, he traveled to Tarsus to find Paul and bring him back to Antioch to teach the faith.

Later, through the Church at Antioch, the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. On their first journey, they sailed west to the island of Cyprus and then north to visit cities in modern-day Turkey.

On land, Paul and Silas walked on roads the Romans built to transport their armies. In each town, they preached the Good News about Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, to the Jews in synagogues first.

Some gladly received the message of salvation through Christ, but others loudly and sometimes violently opposed them. Angry Jews from other cities found Paul in Lystra, dragged him out of the city, and stoned him. "But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city" (14:20).

Gentiles also frequented synagogue services, either as full converts or half-fledged converts known as God-fearers. Most believed in the coming Messiah and eagerly received Paul's message that Jesus the Christ had come, died, and risen again for them.

Paul and Barnabas also preached to Gentiles in marketplaces and public places. The disciples taught that Jesus, the Son of God, never sinned, but offered Himself as a sacrifice on the cross to pay for our sins, and rose from the dead. As the Holy Spirit worked through God's Word and Sacraments, many believed in Jesus. Through Christ, our Savior, "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Prayer

Dear Lord, guide and protect us on the road of life and bring us safely to our heavenly home. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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