

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 28, 2015

The Completion of the Journey in Antioch
Acts 14:21-28

Acts 13-14 records Paul's first missionary journey. After a journey of about 700 miles, he arrived in Derbe.

1. The ministry at Derbe (14:21)

Like Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, many disciples were made in Derbe. Unlike Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, there was no record of opposition to the ministry of Paul in Derbe.

Rather than returning to his home base of Antioch of Syria by land, Paul retraced his steps back to where he had been in Asia Minor, showing that Paul's concern for himself was exceeded by his concern for the churches.

The return journey shows Paul's desire to make disciples of Christ, not just gain converts for Christ.

2. The ministry at Pisidian Antioch (14:22-23)

Souls are strengthened through the teaching of the Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The word "encouragement" (PARAKALOUNTES) was used to exhort troops going into battle.

- Perseverance fails through unbelief (Matthew 13:21).
- Perseverance comes through faith (Hebrews 11).
- Perseverance brings godliness (2 Peter 1:6; James 1:2-4).
- Perseverance brings reward (Galatians 6:9).
- The kingdom of God will come through perseverance (14:22).

Each New Testament church was led by a group of men called elders, not by an individual pastor (cf. Acts 20:17; 21:18; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1). The practice of church leadership by elders was taught by Paul in Titus 1:5.

In the Bible, fasting was a response to sorrow or anguish, primarily over sin or a pending trial of great magnitude. There was a great awareness of the persecution that surrounded Paul and Barnabas on their journey (cf. 2 Timothy 3:10-12).

The word translated “commend” literally means “to set before another,” and shows that the church entrusted the care of Paul and Barnabas to the Lord.

3. The ministry at Perga (14:24-25)

Pisidia and Pamphylia were regions in what is now modern day Turkey. Perga was where John Mark abandoned the missionary journey and returned to Jerusalem (13:13). Unlike this visit to Perga, the account of the first visit to Perga gave no evidence of ministry.

4. The ministry at Syrian Antioch (14:26-28)

Paul and Barnabas bypassed the island of Cyprus to return to Antioch. It is during Paul’s time in Antioch that he wrote the book of Galatians.

The most significant part of the report to the church was about God’s work among the Gentiles. God opened a door to faith where an entirely Gentile church was established. This development will create the controversy regarding whether the Gentiles should be directed to observe the Law of Moses (Acts 15:5).

May we persevere in faith, regardless of the obstacles, so the work of the Lord will abound in the op