

## Part 28 | **Sent to be Faithful**

Acts 14:1-28

When the world is full of chaos, **OPPOSITION**, & division, our job is to be **FAITHFUL** and point people to Jesus leaving the **RESULTS** to God. (v. 1-28)

**Galatians 5:13-26**

### Christians & Culture: **RECEIVE, REJECT, or REDEEM?**

It is important for Christians to engage their culture with wisdom.

It's not a question of *if* you will engage your culture, the question is *how* will you engage with culture.

**Will you do so with wisdom?** When we as Christians interact with different parts of culture, we have three filters through which we must choose to interact:

#### We can **RECEIVE** it.

There are things in culture that are part of God's common grace to all people that a Christian can simply receive.

#### We can **REJECT** it.

There are things in culture that are sinful and not beneficial, such as pornography, that must be rejected by a Christian.

#### We can **REDEEM** it.

There are things in culture that are not bad in and of themselves, but can be used in a sinful manner and therefore need to be redeemed by God's people.

# Signs & WONDERS

Often in Acts we read of "signs and wonders". Here's one attempt at explaining what they are.

A "**sign**" (*semeion*) is a miracle whereby God shows himself to be almighty.

A "**wonder**" (*teras*) is an amazing miracle that causes astonishment.

In the Old Testament, the word "wonder" referred to God's redemptive activity when Moses led the Hebrews from Egypt (Deut. 26:5-11). In the early church, these great miracles, empowered by the Spirit, **showed and confirmed God's new redemptive work in Christ.**

Following are some of the verses in Acts where signs, wonders, and miracles are mentioned:

**2:19**—"I will cause wonders in the heavens above."

**2:22**—"God publicly endorsed Jesus of Nazareth by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs through him."

**2:43**—"The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders."

**4:30**—"May miraculous signs and wonders be done."

**5:12**—"The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders."

**6:8**—"Stephen . . . performed amazing miracles and signs."

**7:36**—"By means of many miraculous signs and wonders, he led them out of Egypt."

**8:6**—"Crowds listened intently to what he had to say because of the miracles he did."

**8:13**—"He was amazed by the great miracles and signs Philip performed."

**14:3**—"The Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders."

**15:12**—"Everyone listened as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles."

From: Bruce B. Barton and Grant R. Osborne, Acts, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999), 234-235.

**Grow.**

## Food for Thought

*Questions & Scripture for Further Study*

**What is this?** – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card, or contact the church office! Most groups break for the summer, but others will continue and use this for their study time together. Instead of our normal study guide, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week. Look for sign-ups for new groups in August!

### Food for Thought...

**Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching**, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. In the message we saw Paul facing both opposition and physical persecution as he faithfully carried out the ministry God called him to. As we think about the possibility of Christians facing more opposition in the future, it's helpful to take a look at how Jesus responded to those who were indifferent or outright hostile to Him. What do you notice about Jesus' attitude toward people and His response to them in the following passages?
  - **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
  - **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
  - **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." **MATTHEW 9:35-38** (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" <sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" <sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. <sup>33</sup> "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." <sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him. **MATTHEW 20:29-34** (NIV)

<sup>37</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. <sup>38</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" **MATTHEW 23:37-39** (NIV)

*(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)*

# Welcome to Wawasee!

## OUR CORE VALUES

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



### 1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



### 2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



### 3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



### 4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



### 5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

## Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find for Galatians 5:22-26 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

22 But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** 23 **gentleness, self-control;** against **such** things there is no law. 24 And those who **belong** to **Christ Jesus** have **crucified** the **flesh** with its **passions** and **desires.** 25 If we **live** by the **Spirit,** let us **also keep in step** with the **Spirit.** 26 Let us not **become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

S D F L E S H V J J R A G B  
P G O O D N E S S E L I V E  
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I L G D R K T B E C O M E D

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

<sup>51</sup> As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then he and his disciples went to another village. **LUKE 9:51-56 (NIV)**

<sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." **LUKE 99:41-44**

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **JOHN 11:32-36 (NIV)**

- How might what you learn about Jesus in these passages help you prepare for opposition, know how to respond to those who don't agree with us and work to share the Gospel with people?

2. It's no surprise that it can be challenging to reach out to or accept those who are different or have a belief system contrary to our own. **Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16.** How does the Apostle Paul's understanding of his past and what God did for him impact his viewpoint of others?

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. <sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup> The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. **1 TIMOTHY 1:12-16**

This week's Food for Thought is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



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# ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, June 4, 2023



PART 28

Sent to be Faithful



ACTS 14:1-28



### We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access **today's bulletin** using the same QR or link.