

SERMON SERIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS, #35
Section Three, “The Foreign Emphasis,” Part One
“Paul is a Pioneer for the Continuation of the Church,” #5
“Paul Exclaims the Christ- The First Missionary Journey,” Part Two
“The Continuation of the First Missionary Journey,” #1
“The Missionaries Face the Danger of Division,” 14:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

SneakPreview: The Word of God is a “Sword.” Swords “cut” or “divide.” The church will do well to remember that when we preach the Word of God, we literally “draw a line” that divides those who receive the Word from those who reject it.

PROPOSITION: Consider the three-fold manifestation of the danger of division that Paul and Barnabas face for the cause of the Gospel.

I. THE REASON FOR THE DIVISION IS SEEN IN THE SALVATION OF THE PEOPLE. Vs. 1.

- A. Note the **Cooperation** in Evangelism.
- B. Note the **Context** of Evangelism.
- C. Note the **Conversions** of Evangelism.

LifePoint One: Two major components are missing in much of today’s evangelism efforts: One is “cooperation” and the other is “contextualization.” If we will do both we will see more “conversions.”

II. THE REALITY OF THE DIVISION IS SEEN IN THE STIRRING OF THE PHARISEES. Vss. 2-4.

- A. Consider the **Deception** of the Pharisees. Vs. 2.
- B. Consider the **Dedication** of the Preachers. Vs. 3.
- C. Consider the **Dilemma** of the People. Vs. 4.

LifePoint Two: The hearers of the Gospel have always faced a dilemma: To believe the deception of the world or

the truth of the Word. One cannot have it both ways.

III. THE RESULT OF THE DIVISION IS SEEN IN THE SAFETY OF THE PREACHERS. Vss. 5-7.

- A. See the Evil of the Multitudes. Vs. 5.
- B. See the Escape of the Missionaries. Vs. 6.
- C. See the Exclamation of the Message. Vs. 7.

LifePoint Three: There are at least three truths to learn in evangelism: One, the Gospel always stirs things up. Two, God protects his preachers. Three, God always honors His Word.

APPLICATION:

PowerPoint: The only way to obtain true unity is to first separate the “sheep from the goats.” We cannot serve God AND the world. We are to be “one” with only those who are on God’s side.