

**EXPOSITORY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS, #36**  
**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,” #2**  
**“The Missionaries Face the Danger of Deification,” 14:8-18**  
**Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, PM, December 5, 2004**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**SneakPreview:** Doing the work of the Lord does not exempt anyone from persecution and insult. We do the work of the Lord because it is the right thing to do- not because of the “benefits” we might receive.

**PROPOSITION:** In this passage we shall see four “stages” of the potential “deification” of Paul and Barnabas, stages that perhaps still have meaning today.

**I. THE MIRACLE OF PAUL PROMPTED THE POTENTIAL IDOLATRY. Vss. 8-10.**

- A. The Condition of the Cripple is Established. Vs. 8.
- B. The Circumstances of the Cripple is Explained. Vs. 9.
- C. The Command to the Cripple is Expressed. Vs. 10.

**LifePoint One:** There are two “fatal” mistakes non-Christians make: One is to give Satan credit for what God has done. The other is to “blame” God for what Satan has done. Making either mistake is to tread on dangerous ground!

**II. THE MOVING OF THE PEOPLE POWERED THE POTENTIAL IDOLATRY. Vss. 11-13.**

- A. The Descent of False Gods is Assumed. Vs. 11.
- B. The Designation of False Gods is Assigned. Vs. 12.
- C. The Devotion to False Gods is Attempted. Vs. 13.

**LifePoint Two:** People are “spiritual” creatures, and must worship something, whether that be the One True God, false idols, or the “god” of atheism.

**III. THE MESSAGE OF THE PREACHERS PREVENTS THE POTENTIAL IDOLATRY. Vss. 14-17.**

A. The Preachers Attempt to Prevent the Idolatry by Pleading. Vss. 14, 15a.

B. The Preachers Attempt to Prevent the Idolatry by Preaching. Vss. 15b,

C. The Preachers Attempt to Prevent the Idolatry by Proving. Vs. 17.

**LifePoint** Three: Godly leaders refuse the praise of man. Character, not “ability, experience, or education,” defines the real leader for God.

**IV. THE MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE PURSUE THE POTENTIAL IDOLATRY. Vs. 18.**

A. The Preaching Was Impotent Because of Spiritual Darkness.

B. The People Were Insistent Because of Satanic Determination.

**LifePoint** Four: Some sincere and godly men, against their own wishes, are exalted above that which they were intended.

**APPLICATION:** In closing, I believe we need to recognize three types of idolatry.

**1. Ignorant Idolatry-**

**2. Indifferent Idolatry-**

**3. Intentional Idolatry-**

**4. Indignant Idolatry-**

Let's not be guilty of idolatry in any of its forms!

**PowerPoint:** In a pagan world, it is possible, and even common, for God to be ignored and not praised for what He is doing. It is the Christian's job to make sure that credit is given where credit is due- give God the glory!