

EXPOSITORY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS, #39
Section Three, "The Foreign Emphasis," Part One
"Paul is a Pioneer for the Continuation of the Church," #8
"Paul Exclaims the Christ- The First Missionary Journey," Part Three
"The Completion of the First Missionary Journey," #2
"The Confirmation of God's Work," 15:13-31
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, PM, January 30, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

SUMMARY OF RECENT MESSAGES:

We have already considered...

- 1) The Commencement of the First Missionary Journey, Chapter 13.
- 2) The Continuation of the First Missionary Journey, Chapter 14.

We are now looking at...

- 3) The Completion of the First Missionary Journey, 15:1-35
 - a) The Conflict of Good Works, 15:1-12 (last time)
 - b) The Confirmation of God's Work, 15:13-23 (tonight)
 - c) The Confrontation of Godly Workers, 15:24-35 (next time)

SneakPreview: When the Church stays with the Word of God, it always draws the right theological conclusions. When the Church's theology is right, our beliefs are right. When our beliefs are right, our attitude and behavior is right. When our attitude and behavior is right, that's all right!

PROPOSITION: This passage reveals a three-fold affirmation that salvation is by grace alone, no matter what the legalists say!

I. PETER CONCLUDES THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE. Vss. 13-18.

- A. Note the **Affirmation** of Peter's Conclusion. Vs. 13.
- B. Note the **Proclamation** of Peter's Conclusion. Vss. 14-17.
- C. Note the **Confirmation** of Peter's Conclusion. Vs. 18.

LifePoint One: What God IS doing is ALWAYS in conformity with His Word. If an event, teaching, or anything else is contrary to God's Word,

then God is NOT in it!

II. THE PASTOR CONFIRMS THAT SANCTIFICATION IS BY GRACE. Vss. 13, 19-21.

- A. The Identity of the Pastor is Established. Vs. 13.
- B. The Inference of the Pastor is Expressed. Vs. 19.
- C. The Instructions of the Pastor are Explained. Vss. 20, 21.

LifePoint Two: Though salvation is NOT contingent on works, sanctification IS. We cannot be LIKE Christ if we do not LIVE out His Word in our lives.

III. THE PEOPLE COMMUNICATE THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE. Vss. 22-31.

- A. The Representatives of the Council's Conclusion are Chosen. Vs. 22.
- B. The Reiteration of the Councils' Conclusion is Communicated. Vss. 23-29.
- C. The Reaction to the Council's Conclusion is Celebrative. Vss. 30, 31.

LifePoint Three: Unity in God's Word should result in true celebration. There is nothing more satisfying than being a part of a family, and there is no better family of which to be a part than the family of God!

APPLICATION:

PowerPoint: Churches can strengthen each other. Truly Evangelical churches are NOT in competition with one another, nor are we at odds with one another. Bible preaching churches are all the body of Christ.