

EXPOSITORY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS, #46
Section Three, “The Foreign Emphasis,” Part One
“Paul is a Pioneer for the Continuation of the Church,” #15
“Paul Expands the Church- The 2nd Missionary Journey,” Part Two
“The Expanding Church Endures Frustrating Problems,” #1
“The Expanding Church Experiences Violent Protests,” 17:1-14

INTRODUCTION:

SneakPreview: Opposition to the Church does not disprove the Faithfulness of God; rather it proves the faith of God’s people.

PROPOSITION: We shall consider four aspects of the Expanding Church that illustrate God’s faithfulness in the midst of Violent Protests.

I. CONSIDER THE CAUSE OF THE EXPANDING CHURCH. Vss. 1-3

- A. The Church Expands Because of the **Persistence** of Paul. Vs. 1.
- B. The Church Expands Because of the **Preaching** of Paul. Vs. 2.
- C. The Church Expands Because of the **Proclamation** of Paul. Vs. 3.

LifePoint One: While programs, property, and personalities are used to build God’s Kingdom, He still uses most the “foolishness of preaching” to expand His Church.

II. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXPANDING CHURCH. Vss. 4-9.

- A. The **Desirable** Consequences are **Expressed**. Vs. 4.
- B. The **Disturbing** Consequences are **Explained**. Vss. 5-9.

LifePoint Two: There are essential two responses to the Gospel: reception or rejection. There is no middle ground. While we rejoice in those who receive, we are not surprised that many reject.

III. CONSIDER THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXPANDING CHURCH. Vss. 10-12.

- A. Note the **Reason** for the Continuing Church. Vs. 10.
- B. Note the **Recipients** of the Continuing Church. Vs. 11.
- C. Note the **Results** of the Continuing Church. Vs. 12.

LifePoint Three: While weak and immature Christians will quit when the going gets tough, committed Christians, when the going gets tough, will get going.

IV. CONSIDER THE CONFLICT OF THE EXPANDING CHURCH. Vss. 13, 14.

- A. See the **Relentless** Bitterness. Vs. 13.
- B. See the **Rescued** Brethren. Vs. 14.

LifePoint Four: Just as Christians can be committed to the cause of Christ, lost people can be committed to the cause of the Enemy. Because of this, we must be ready to “rescue the perishing.”

APPLICATION: There are three truths that stand out in my mind regarding this passage:

- 1) Paul keeps on keeping on;
- 2) Paul’s enemies keep on keeping on; and
- 3) God is faithful all the way through!

PowerPoint: The most fascinating and paradoxical truth about opposition is that it is God’s major strategy in expanding the Church! Praise God for it!

