

Acts # 59 “Persecution, Expulsion, Rejection and Joy” Part 2 *Acts 13:48-14:19*

**Religion cannot stand to see anyone happy unless the happiness is attributed to the religious and here are people from all over the city who are rejoicing.**

They have inner happiness which comes from biblical truth in their souls, so they glorified the source of their joy!

*After these new believers accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, their status remained the same forever.*

This is the omniscience of God that knew which way our free-will was going to lean; He knew that we'd believe in Jesus Christ.

So, what did He do about it? He set up a plan for all Church Age believers which is explained through biblical truth.

**God's plan called for Jesus Christ to die and He knew who would respond positively to the Gospel and as a result, He provided a program or plan for them.**

**In the Bible, the heart is related to the mind as the source of thought, so faith is an intellectual expression and salvation comes to us solely by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.**

To believe something, we must understand the basics of it and to be a Christian, we must have enough understanding to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the God-man who came to die for us in our place for our sins and apart from Him, we are helpless and hopeless to save ourselves.

*We are all responsible for what we believe and we can't believe something we don't understand.*

Believing is understanding and accepting something to be true.

**Wherever the Gospel was heard, it was rejected by some, specifically by those who were religious.**

Religion always rejects grace at any point, at any time and in any way it can.

*The greater the pressure, the greater their confidence in the Lord.*

The pressure was not real to them; the promises of God were real to them and the fact that Paul spoke boldly indicates that he understood and applied biblical truth and through biblical truth, he was not only occupied with the Person of Jesus Christ but he was aware of the significance of life in his day; aware of the Angelic Dispute going on behind the scenes.

**Paul was in a furnace and in that furnace God provides in grace.**

We often get into the furnace ourselves but even then God uses the furnace as blessing.

*His grace is sufficient and under grace God is free to bless us and He is just as free to bless us in the furnace as out of the furnace.*

And what freed God to bless sinful man without God compromising His perfect character

**was the sufficient sacrifice of His amazing Son!**