

Through Many Tribulations

Acts 14:1-28



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Setting of Acts 13-14 First Missionary Journey



Iconium 14:1-7: Expect the Gospel to transform some & divide others.

¹ Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks **believed.**

Spoke in what way?

- Content: Storyline of the Old Testament.
- Empowerment: Spirit filled.

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52

²But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴But the people of the city **were divided**; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

³So they remained for a long time, **speaking boldly for the Lord**, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

⁵ When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, ⁶ they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country,⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Lystra 14:8-20

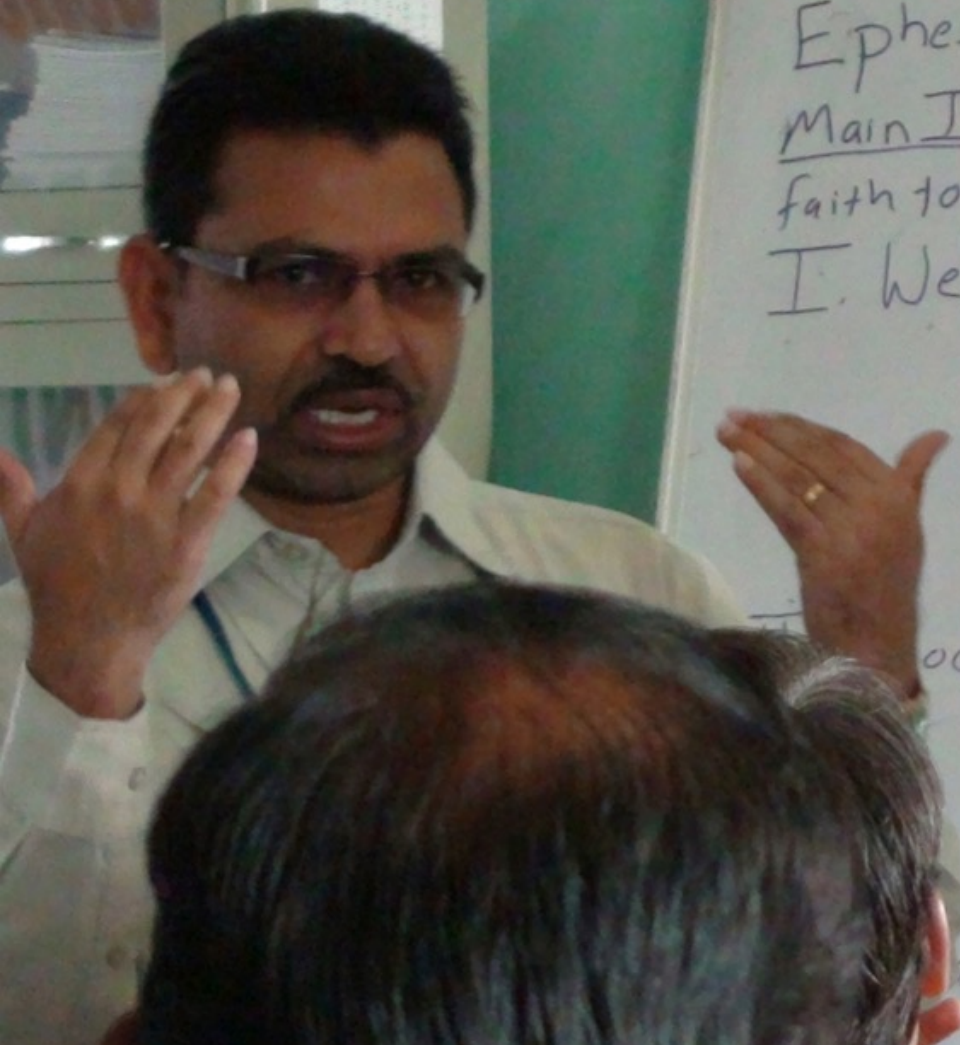
⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

¹³And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should **turn** from these vain things to a living God, a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

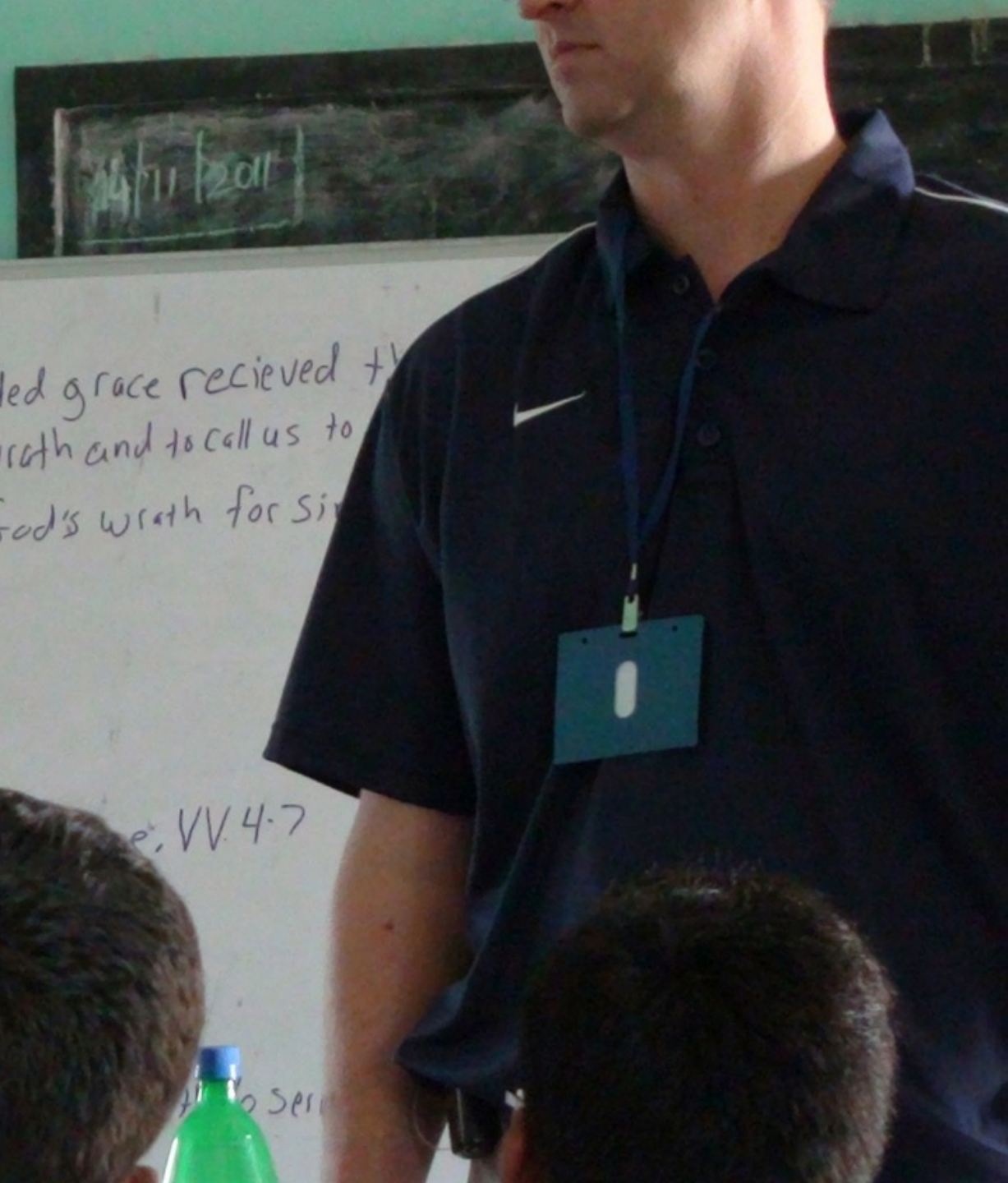


Ephesians 2:1-10

Main Idea: God provided grace received +
faith to save us from wrath and to call us to

I. We were under God's wrath for sin

God saved us by grace, VV. 4-7



Realize the Gospel divides because it calls
for repentance.

¹⁵ ...we bring you good news, that you should
turn from these vain things to a living God ...

¹⁸ Even with these words they scarcely
restrained the people from offering sacrifice to
them.

Realize the Gospel divides because it calls
for repentance.

¹⁹But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium,
and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned
Paul and dragged him out of the city,
supposing that he was dead.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Matthew 10:34 - 35



³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Matthew 10:34 - 35

²⁰But when the disciples gathered about him,
he rose up and entered the city,

Derbe & Revisits 14:21-23: Strengthen souls & encourage perseverance.

and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples,

they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that **through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.** ²³And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

So what are we to do?

- We gather in community to strengthen & encourage.
- Remain prayerful dependent personally and corporately.

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth **boldly** to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it **boldly**, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18–20