

The Biblical Function of a Missionary

Acts 13:4-5

Let's look at the 3 main functions of a New Testament Missionary.

- I. Preach The Gospel – Evangelizing the people – V. 5 “And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God...”** There are people waiting to hear the Gospel... then and today!
 - A. Govt. Employee – V. 7 = (Specific Person)** Sergius Paulus in Paphos: “...and desired to hear the word of God.” V.12
 - B. Gentiles / Jews – V. 14, 42, 48-49 = (Specific Groups of People)** in another town called Antioch in Pisidia
 - C. General Region – Ch. 14: 6-7 = (Specific Country)** the people of Lycaonia, “and there they preached the Gospel.”

- II. Prepare The Churches – Organize the Churches 14:21-23 – we’re talking “Church-Planting 101” = 3 basic keys...**
 - A. V. 21 = They Preached The Gospel... and made disciples –** “And when they had preached the Gospel to that city, and had taught many...”
 - B. V.22 = They Strengthened (“Confirming...”) The Believers –** in the things of Christ and encouraged (“exhorting...”) them to continue (keep on going!!!) in the faith.
 1. “Continuing”... is a proof to others, of true faith in Jesus Christ.
 - a. **John 8:31-32**, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - b. **Acts 2:42**, “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 2. “Continuing” is expected... regardless of tough times.
 - a. Paul made it very clear that living the Christian life wasn't easy.
 - C. V.23 = They Set Up (or Appointed) Pastors –** to be elected (ordained)
 1. In Acts 20 – the title, “elder” and “bishop” (overseer) refer to the same office and both are equivalent to “pastor” (shepherd). The translated word for “ordained” means “to elect by a show of hands.”

- III. Present To The Sending Churches – Report to the Sending Church – Ch. 14:26-28**
 - A. They reported to their “sending church” on the work God had done.**
 - B. This is the first “missionary conference” –** in church history!