

Daily Devotional, June 23, 2020

“And They Were Preaching The Gospel There”, (Acts 14:7, NKJV)

“And they were preaching the gospel there” (Acts 14:7).

The same life giving gospel was preached in Lystra as has been preached elsewhere throughout the church age. And every Christian is commanded to go in the power of the Lord and proclaim the good news (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15). The substance of the gospel is both the content and focus of all preaching, that *“there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). The approach being used here is the proclamation of God’s special revelation to humankind through His Son Jesus Christ. This message must not be compromised (Galatians 1:6-9). Spurgeon notes that “he (Paul) may change his tones but never his matter. It is the same remedy for the same disease (sin)”. Further, the Christian apologist must be careful never to minimize the power and personal nature of God (Psalm 78:41; Romans 11:33-34). The Lord promises that His Word is never preached in vain (Isaiah 55:11).

“And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked” (Acts 14:8-10). We note here how God had prepared this man’s heart ahead of time. Some of our apologetic encounters will be with people whose hearts have already been softened; that God has made ready to hear His saving gospel. This man already had faith prior to being healed. Perhaps a factor in his readily accepting the message was that he held belief in one God as a basic foundational belief. Many of us know people who seem to have an innate awareness of the existence of God, and this apart from any philosophical reason or argument. Let us also hear the testimony of this man. In today’s postmodern ‘subjective’ culture, personal testimony is a powerful evangelistic and apologetic strategy. Paul tells us that every Christian is *“an epistle of Christ, known and read by all men”* (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). May we be found busy talking the Christian gospel talk and also walking the Christian gospel walk.