

Acts 14

But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all. In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. // 2 Timothy 3:10-12

Perseverance in Iconium (14:1-7)

- About ninety miles southeast of Pisidian Antioch
- “It was still a Greek city when Paul and Barnabas visited it, and was a center of agriculture and commerce” // John Stott, Message of Acts, 228
- “The greater the effectiveness of a ministry, the greater the resistance and opposition” // Tim Keller
- “What upset their religious opponents? Grace. They were mad enough to kill the missionaries over the good news that God extends unmerited kindness to all who will turn to him by placing faith in Christ.” // Merida, Tony. Exalting Jesus in Acts (pp. 272-273).
- *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. // Colossians 1:12*

Perseverance in Lystra and Derbe (14:8-21a)

- Lystra is about twenty miles south of Iconium
- Derbe is about sixty miles southeast of Lystra
- “There were no other significant towns in the region, but the reference to the ‘surrounding country’ in v. 6 might

indicate that they evangelized the smaller towns and countryside of Lycaonia as well” // Polhill, Acts, 311–312

- “Overall, however, Lystra seems to have consisted mainly of Gentile pagans.” // Merida, Tony. Exalting Jesus in Acts (p. 275).
- The home of Timothy
- *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, // Isaiah 35:5-6*
- Paul’s main theme is the nature and work of the living God.
- *They themselves report what kind of reception we had from you: how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. // 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*
- The heavens declare the glory of God,
- *and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. // Psalm 19:1*
- “Wherever we begin, we shall end with Jesus Christ, who is himself the good news, and who alone can fulfill all human aspirations.” John Stott, Message of Acts, 232

Perseverance in the Return Trips (14:21b-28)

- *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. // Hebrews 10:24-25*