

“The Greatest Business Meeting in Church History”

Acts 14:19-28, ESV

Introduction: There is no work like that of the local church! Would you agree? The work of the Lord’s church is the HOPE for the world! The text before us this morning provides a record of the greatest business meeting in church history. Most folks avoid a church business meeting like the plague. Yet, when Paul and his missionary companions arrived back home to the church that launched them, they gave one of the most compelling reports of God’s glorious, gracious, saving work among the Gentiles. I assure you that you would have been riveted to your seat!

Key Verse (v. 27): *“And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.”*

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

1). God Blessed the Preaching of His Word (v. 21).

The power is **ALWAYS** in the Word. God blesses the preaching of His Word.

2). Believers Were Strengthened and Encouraged to Continue in the Faith (v. 19-20, 22).

Living the Christian life is not easy.

God will and does **prove Himself faithful** through many trials and severe difficulties.

Scripture says, *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*- 2 Tim. 3:11

What habits strengthen your resolve to continue in the faith? Bible reading, prayer, gathering with the church, listening to faithful preaching, sitting under sound teaching, fellowship. We need each other as we navigate life in Christ!

3). Churches Were Organized and Mobilized for Gospel Work (v. 23).

Churches need leadership. Structure. Organization. The apostles appointed elders in every church, prayed for them, and commended them and their efforts to the glory of God and the good of the church.

Concluding Matters: (What a business meeting!)

- ❖ This marks the end of the first missionary journey.
- ❖ The gospel was preached in the provinces of: Cyprus, Pamphylia, and Galatia.
- ❖ At least four churches were founded in: Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.
- ❖ They declared all that God had done with and through them.
- ❖ They rejoiced that God had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.