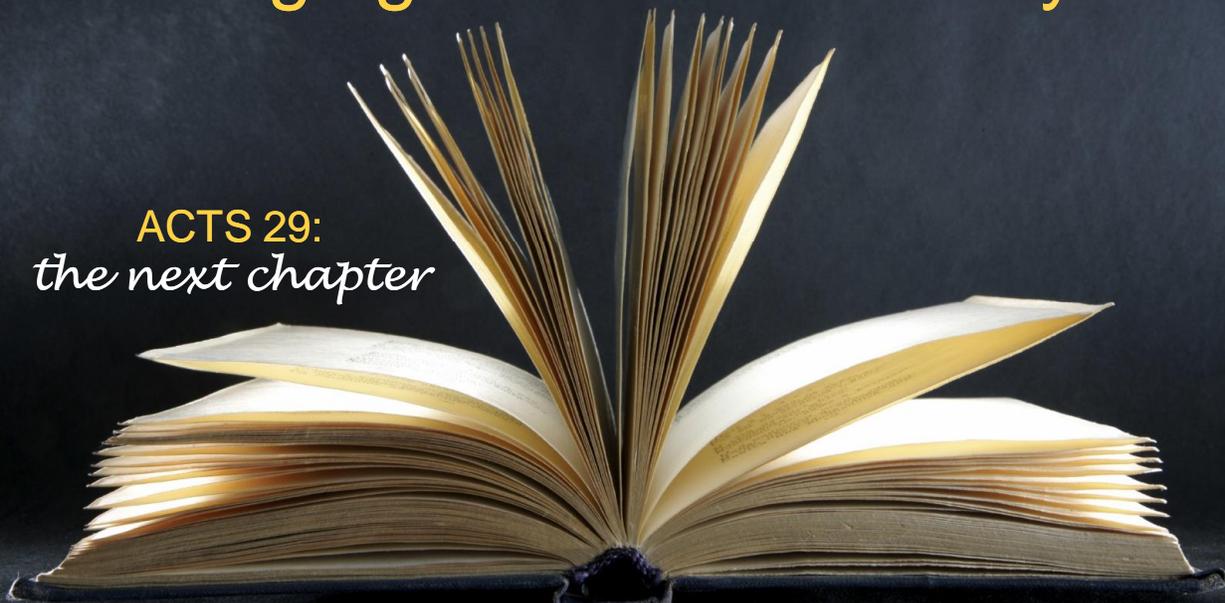


Judging Yourself Unworthy

ACTS 29:
the next chapter



God not only woos, He warns. Such a salvation as He offers is not to be spurned; the cost is too enormous and the benefits too great, the terms of acceptance too simple and the alternatives too final and dreadful. To turn down God's offer of salvation is to commit the ultimate unforgiveable sin; it is to crucify the Son of God afresh (Heb 6:6), it is to do despite unto the Spirit of grace (Heb 10:26), it is to trample under foot the blood of the covenant, it is to become a fitting candidate for God's eternal and undiluted wrath. + John Phillips

This part of the story in Antioch of Pisidia is one of major conflict over the Gospel

Mt 10:34-36 Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law ³⁶and a man's enemies will be those of his own household.

Lk 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

Mt 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Acts 13:40-52 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: ⁴¹Behold, you despisers, marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, a work which you will by no means believe, though one were to declare it to you. ⁴²So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, %It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us: ± I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth. ⁴⁸Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Paul ends his Gospel message with a stern warning:

Acts 13:40-52 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: ⁴¹Behold, you despisers, marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, a work which you will by no means believe, though one were to declare it to you.†

Heb 3:7-11 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: †Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. ¹⁰Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, †They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.q¹¹So I swore in My wrath, †They shall not enter My rest.†

†God's grace and love do not cancel His justice and holy hatred of sin.+ John MacArthur



This passage is a great lesson in contrasts:

1. Contention vs. Conviction

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.

- “ Stephen martyred
- “ Simon the magician in Samaria
- “ Herod murdered James and imprisoned Peter
- “ Jewish false prophet Bar-Jesus

2. Envy vs. Empathy

Acts 12:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy;

- “ It was envy that moved the Jews to hand Jesus over to Pilate
- “ It was envy that moved the Jews to turn against the Apostles (Acts 5:19)
- “ It was envy that now moved the Jews to reject the Gospel

3. Rejection vs. Reception

Acts 13:45 they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

4. Blasphemy vs. Belief

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were ã blaspheming

Acts 13:48 And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Jn 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jn 5:40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, %It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life**, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

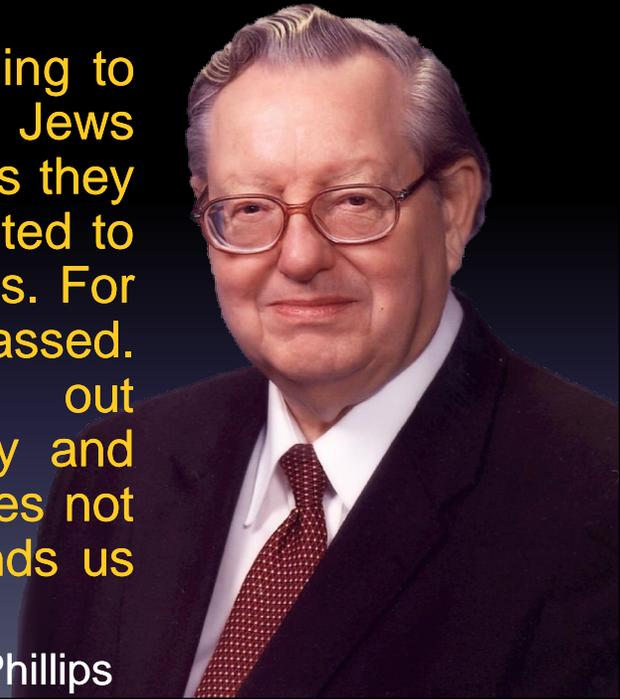
%They brought the verdict upon themselves by their own choice. After centuries of waiting on their Messiah, His own people rejected Him and the salvation He brought.+ John MacArthur

Heb 2:1-3 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation,

Heb 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Instead of gladly responding to the message, the Jews searched to see what flaws they could find in it. They wanted to evaluate its full implications. For them the magic moment passed. God does not hand out brochures for us to study and throw away if His offer does not appeal to us. He commands us to repent.+

John Phillips



5. Out vs. In

Acts 13:50-51 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

Mt 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.