

# “For Those Who Won’t Listen and Those Who Will”

## Acts 13:44-49

Many Pastors today, when asked to share their honest feelings, would say that they feel as though they are regularly preaching to 25% of their members, half of whom really don’t want to hear what they have to say. This is the very position of Paul and Barnabas after spending much of their First Missionary Journey preaching to Jews who repudiated the gospel. In verse 46, they said to them, “behold, we are turning to the Gentiles” (cf. 18:6).

Verse 47 gives us a text that speaks clearly of the Lord’s command to them at that juncture and to us today regarding our service.

- I. There is a PLACE OF SERVICE (v. 47a “I have placed You...”)
  - A. It is GOD’S PLACE FOR YOU (“I” have placed...)
  - B. It is YOUR PLACE FOR HIM (I have placed “you”...)
- II. There is a PURPOSE FOR SERVICE (v. 47b “...as a light...that you might bring salvation...”)
  - A. Your purpose is to BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE SINNER (“light to the Gentiles...”)
  - B. Your purpose is to BRING GROWTH TO THE SAINTS (v. 49 “...the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.”)
- III. There is a PROJECTION OF SERVICE (v. 47c “...to the end of the earth.”) - cf. Acts 1:8... The gospel is to be projected:
  - A. ...to Jerusalem (our immediate city or community)
  - B. ...to Judea (our county or state)
  - C. ...to Samaria (our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic nation)
  - D. ...to the end of the earth (all the “people groups” of the world)

God’s call and placement may not change at all. Perhaps your focus from the 50% of the 25% to whom you preach each week may need to change. Maybe you need to focus more on those who are lost and unchurched (even though some of them may hold membership in your church). The gospel is still “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom 1:16), - to those who won’t listen and those who will! — rrc