

"God's Command for Committed Men"
Acts 13:47

On his first Missionary Journey, in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, Paul was asked to speak (v. 15). The response he received was a turning point in his life and ministry. "The people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath" (v. 42). And "the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord" (v. 44). Nevertheless, it was here that Paul's ministry moved from the Jews to include Gentiles (v. 46).

Paul pronounces the command which God had given him, quoting Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6. It is from this pronouncement that we discover God's command for committed men (v. 47).

- I. FIND THE PLACE to which God LEADS you (v. 47a "I have placed you...").
 - A. It will be a place where your MINISTRY IS NEEDED (v. 15).
 - B. It will be a place where your MESSAGE IS NEEDED (vv. 42-43).
 - C. It will be a place where the MESSENGER IS MISTREATED (vv. 45, 50).

- II. FULFILL THE PURPOSE for which God CALLED you (v. 47b "...as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation...")
 - A. Our purpose is to SPREAD GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD (cf. II Tim. 4:5).
 - B. Our purpose is to SUPPORT GOD'S WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH (v. 52)

- III. FOCUS ON THE PROJECTION in which God will USE YOU (v. 47c "...to the end of the earth") - cf Acts 1:8.
 - A. God's Word is projected through THE WHOLE CITY (v. 44).
 - B. God's Word is projected through THE WHOLE REGION (v. 49).
 - C. God's Word is projected through THE WHOLE WORLD (v. 47c).

God's command to committed men and women is clear:

- Find the place to which God leads you!
- Fulfill the purpose for which God has called you!
- Focus on the projection in which God will use you!