

Small Group Meeting - Second Week of October

Topic: A Light for the Gentiles (Acts 13:42-52)

(1) Welcome Together

[Icebreaker] Have you recently been envious of someone? Or have you had a hard time because of someone else's envy towards you?

(2) Worship Together

[Praise] Hymn 510 "A Light in the Darkness" (Sheet music and instrumental track on the back)

[Prayer] Let's give thanks that our small group members can gather together in health! (By one of the group members)

(3) Word Together

1. The grace of the Gospel is both infinite and finite. The Bible declares that those who believe in the gospel will surely be saved (infinite). "...for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)

However, for those who continue to oppose and decide not to believe even after hearing the gospel, that opportunity is not given forever (finite). "...since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles." (Acts 13:46)

The Bible clearly states: "In the time of my favor I heard you... I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." Salvation is always in the "present tense." Believing in Jesus now and responding to the Word now is the Lord's will and the proper attitude of a saved people toward the infinite grace of God.

Let's think about it together:

Isn't that too harsh? (Acts 13:13) John Mark deserted the mission in Perga, abandoning the journey to Pisidian Antioch, and returned to Jerusalem. (1) Should they take him along? Or (2) should they press on without him?

[Sharing the Word]

(1) Remain in Grace (vv. 42-43) After the sermon in Pisidian Antioch, many people followed Paul and Barnabas. They responded because the authority of the gospel was revealed. Likewise, when we share the gospel, the grace and influence God gives us appear in our lives. Are my words filled with "grace"? Or do I only put forward my own "assertions"?

(2) All Who Were Appointed for Eternal Life Believed (vv. 44-48) On the next Sabbath, when almost the whole city gathered to hear the word, the Jews became jealous and began to contradict what Paul was saying. However, among them, those who were appointed for eternal life heard the word and believed. How do I respond to the Word? Am I more sensitive to the "person" speaking than to the "Word" itself?

(3) The Word of the Lord Spread (vv. 49-52) Paul and Barnabas did not stop preaching the gospel despite slander and persecution. This was because they were filled with joy by the Holy Spirit who was with them. No persecution can stop the spread of the gospel. What difficulties are causing me to be discouraged? Do you hope to restore the joy of sharing the gospel?

