

The New Advance

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 QR code: for songs & Keynote if you're not close enough to TV's.
- B. Slide3 Sun Night Prayer: kicking back up Sun 6:30-7:30pm right out here.
- C. Slide4 Food Drive Update: Monday we collected 2700 lbs & \$1500 for our *Murr Community Pantry*. TY CM for *being* the Church.
- D. Slide5 Wed Night New Series: here in the Quad, *Identity in Christ*, Living Our Identity. I will open this Wed night with *What is Identity*.
 - 1. I'll promo it this way...*It is impossible to progress in our Christianity without His identity!* God is the *Only One* who has the authority to tell you who you are.
- E. We will take communion at the end of service.

II. Slide6 Intro: The New Advance

- A. Now starts the gospel opportunity to *the ends of the earth*.
 - 1. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles or *Missionary to the Nations*.
 - 2. 1st foreign missionary journey. From a new base/center. Becomes a model for all similar service. Its emphasis is on *the Holy Spirit of God*.
- B. The book of Acts is a log of people setting off in *different directions* in response to God's call. Its people who are on the move. It's a way of life. Queue up Willie Nelson's song, *On the Road Again*.
- C. Slide7 Map: Antioch/Syria. Seleucia. Cyprus (Island). Salamis (E). Pamphos (W).
 - 1. 13 miles (to port) - 130 miles (to isle) - 90 miles (across isle).
- D. Slide7 Cyprus the Hawaii/Bahamas of the Med. [Barnabas grew up here]

III. Slide9a INNER CALL - OUTER CONFIRMATION (12:25-13:3) *READ

- A. They were chosen by *the Spirit of God* & Commissioned by *the Church of God*.
- B. The missionary call came **when?** When they were busy serving the Lord.

1. You might ask, **How should I participate in missionary work?** **Read** about it. **Pray** for it. **Give** towards it. **Go** into it (short term). **Help others** go into it. **Encourage your children** to go into it.

C. **Want God's direction?** Get busy *servicing*, He'll show you the next step :)

D. The Holy Spirit revealed His will to...*who?* **To** those who were **worshiping and fasting**. **To Barnabas and Saul**. **To the church** of Antioch. [Fasting can make us *more sensitive* to the Spirit's leading]

1. **And just like** the call of **Abraham**, **the call to Go was clear, while the land and the work were not.**

2. So in **both cases** the response to God's call required **an adventurous step of faith**. **What adventurous step of faith is God calling you to?**

E. **Laying on of hands** - was not an **ordination** to office, nor an **appointment** to apostleship, **but** rather **a commissioning to missionary service**.

F. **Slide9b** I like the Spirit's clarity here that **both the Holy Spirit sent them out and the church sent them out**.

1. If an **individual only** hears from the Holy Spirit, this tends to lead to **individualism**, with no connection to His Church.

2. The 2nd tendency is to **institutionalism**, by which all decision-making is done by **the church** without any reference to the Spirit.

G. Interesting, **Barnabas & Saul** didn't **volunteer** for missionary service, **they were sent by the Spirit, through the church**.

H. It doesn't say **why Cyprus was chosen as their 1st destination**.

1. What will see in this chapter is Paul evangelizing a **governor and** confronting a **sorcerer** (this section). **Then** preaching the gospel in a **synagogue** in a different Antioch. **And** then addressing a **pagan crowd** in the open air in Lystra.

2. **They seem to illustrate the extraordinary versatility of the apostle in adapting himself to different situations**. Whether individuals or crowds, Jews or Gentiles, the religious or the irreligious, the educated or the

uneducated, the friendly or the hostile. John Stott

IV. Slide10a **DOUBLE NAME - DOUBLE DUTY (4-12) *READ**

A. (9) **Saul** also called **Paul** – **Paul** was his Latinized/Romanized name. *Luke* switches names as he moves closer to the center of the Roman Empire.

1. **Saul**, his Jewish name. **Greek culture** his conditioning. **Hebraism** his training. **And life in Christ** his *purpose and passion*. A man for all nations and all seasons. *Lloyd Ogilvie*
2. **Would you** change your name to **Mohammad** to win **Muslims**?
3. **My 1st trip to India** I was re-named **B.B.James!** **BIG Poster** (christian name)

B. Here **Saul/Paul** a 2-thronged approach for 2 very different people.

1. **Slide10b** **As a Jew** he confronted the troubled Jewish man by the name of **Bar-Jesus** who was a false prophet and a sorcerer.
2. **As a Roman** he influenced the life of an intellectual Roman governor name **Sergius Paulus**. **Paul led Paulus to Christ**. **The mission had begun!**
 - a) **Slide10c** *Opportunities* usually produce opposition, expect it! 1 Cor.16:9 **For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.**
 - b) This is what some call a **Power Encounter**. “*A visible demonstration that the power of God is greater than the power of the spirits worshiped or feared by different individuals.* eg. **Elijah w/the Baal prophets.**
 - c) **It was the clash of 2 kingdoms:** The kingdom of **God**/The kingdom of **Satan**
 - (1) **The prize?** Not only the **conversion of Paulus** but most likely the **opening** of perhaps all of Cyprus to the gospel of Christ.
 - d) Just remember, *When you open heaven you also open hell.*¹

C. **I share this** because, **Paul** was prepared to speak to many different people at many different levels. **Are we?**

1. The more **varied our background** the better. The more **diversified our interest**, the more people we can touch. Our **training, cultural**

¹ Griffith Thomas; pg.247

background, national heritage, hobbies, travel, sports activities, put us in touch with a wide variety of people.

V. Slide11a **LESSONS TO LIVE BY**

A. **Comfortable people don't need Jesus, Desperate people do.** Bob Goff, Dream Big

1. *Living on the edge of Yikes.* "Jesus never told anyone to *play it safe.*"

B. **Following the Lord is an adventure.** It's a courageous voyage to lands only **He** knows. **Are you willing to climb aboard and let Him send you where He wills?** **If you are,** keep these *4 principles* handy as you wait for His call: *Swindoll, pg.55 Acts.*

1. **Slide11b Don't automatically remove any possibility.**

a) Maybe God is pointing **you** towards something **new**.

b) *A new ministry, a new location, or a new friendship.* Be open to the Spirit's quiet prompting, **and** don't limit His potential through you.

2. **Don't allow activity to do your senses.**

a) Be careful **not** to let **even worthy church involvement** distract you from hearing God's **new course** for your life.

3. **Remember, God's moves are always selective.**

a) Be careful not to **judge others** who stay behind. **Nor** feel **jealous** because God choose someone else.

4. **When God says, "Go" - obey.**

a) **Let the Lord** take the **helm** in your life **and the lives** of those you love.

b) **The seas** may be rough, heading unknown, **but** there's no safer place to be than under his flag.

C. **There is a cost sincere service for Christ.** **Never share your faith** and you'll never look like a fool. **Never stand for righteousness on a social issue** and you'll never be rejected. **Never walk out of the theater** because a movie or play is offensive and you will never be called a Prude. **Never practice consistent honesty in business** and you will not lose the trade, of a not-so-honest associate. **Never reach out to the**

needy and you'll never be taken advantage of. **Never give your heart** and it will **never be broken**. **Never go to Cypress** and you'll never be subject to a crazy, heart convulsing confrontation with Satan. *Kent Hughes*

1. **Follow Christ** and you will experience a gamut of **sorrows** almost completely unknown to the unbeliever.
2. **But** of course you will also know the **joy** of adventure with the Lord of the **universe** and of **spiritual victory** as you live a life of **allegiance** to Him.

D. Communion:

1. **Bread** -
2. **Cup** -