

44-Acts-Pt14-Transcript

and they nailed me with a piece of concrete I'm right in the back of that head man well good evening brothers and sisters and welcome back to Wednesday night Bible study this evening we're going to be studying the book of Acts and similar to the opening video that you saw there and that was not in the Middle East that was actually here in North America was in Dearborn Michigan where these men were preaching Jesus and I don't know the details in the context and you know whether or not they were appropriate but they were certainly being persecuted for their beliefs and this story is not new this is a story that's thousands of years old it began with Jesus Christ we read about it with Stephen in acts 6 and it continues now with the Apostle Paul and so let's get into Acts chapter 14 and just see how this narrative continues and how it really requires courage to be a Christian Heavenly Father we come before you before starting the study to ask for your involvement that she would please bless the study bless all those who are listening to it and father I pray that you'll bless me as we read through Acts chapter 14 and we ask that you would give us understanding and also father that we would be inspired by the example of the early church and the Apostles and in the Apostle Paul in particular we thank you Father we praise you and we ask this in Jesus Holy Name Amen so brethren let's begin and you'll remember last week when we studied Acts chapter 13 we left off with the Word of God being opened up to the Gentiles and the Jews were resisting Paul and so he

basically dusted off his feet and said he would now take the message to the Gentiles and this again have to remind you is a letter that is being written to Theophilus so that he can understand everything that's happened in Paul's journey and he can adequately and effectively and competently represent Paul against the Roman authorities so we left off here and said and when the Gentiles heard that you know Paul is now going to take the gospel to the Gentiles they were glad and they glorified the word of the Lord and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed and the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region but the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women and the chief men of the city and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them out of their coasts so again this is not new this gospel message is met with hostility it's met with opposition and as we go through the book of Acts we're gonna constantly see this and it's it's really an echo of Jesus's ministry and the resistance in the opposition that Jesus received and an experienced and Luke again is drawing this parallel on this connecting tissue between what happened to Christ and what's happening to Paul and then the early apostles so here we see that they were expelled out of their coasts so they shook off the dust of their feet against them as Jesus instructed them to do and came unto echo Neum and just again just geographically whereas Iconium you'll see that all of these churches that were reading about are in what we call today Turkey but you'll see exactly where Iconium is and so they went to Iconium to continue preaching the gospel and the disciples

there were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit and so even though they're facing persecution they are really just filled with gratitude and joy that God is with them and they are fulfilling his word so now we come into Acts chapter 14 and it came to pass in Iconium that's where they are now that they went both together that is Barnabas and Paul into the synagogue of the Jews and you'll notice that wherever whenever Paul goes to a new city he always goes to the synagogue first and so spoke and a great multitude of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed and I've just highlighted this so we don't read over it modern Christianity going back to the third source i should say the 4th century AD really has developed a hostility against the jews and then they see the jews rejecting christ and the jews rejecting the gospel from the from the apostles but that is not true what is true is the jews accepted christ and the jews accepted the teachings and the gospel of the Apostles and the Christian Church the early church was Jewish now of course Jews rejected the the gospel as well so the Jewish population was divided with respect to Jesus Christ some Jews accepted him some Jews rejected him but I think the narrative that the Jews killed Christ the Jews hate Christ the Jews have nothing to do with the gospel this is a false narrative and so we can see here that here in Iconium a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Gentiles believe so as they're preaching the Jews were accepting the gospel but the unbelieving Jews so there's a division among the Jewish population and there are unbelieving Jews that stirred up the Gentiles so so he says yeah I'm gonna

take this gospel to the Gentiles the
Jews don't want it these unbelieving
Jews don't want it but they don't want
the Gentiles to have it either
and so they stir up the Gentiles with a
false narrative and every time we're
stirring people up it requires a
narrative you can't stir people up
without a narrative you need a story you
need to feed them a story to it to
animate them and so here these Gentiles
which perhaps otherwise would have
received the gospel the the unbelieving
Jews stirred them up and made their
minds evil affected against the Brethren
so they knew how to spin a story so that
these Gentiles would think that the
Gentiles were doing that the Apostle
sorry were doing something wrong
so what was the response when the
Gentiles and the Jews were hostile
against the early church the Apostles
Barnabas and Paul and the Brethren what
was their response to this
did they cut and run no look at verse 3
long time therefore abode day so you
know in other words they stayed they
stay stood their ground and they preach
the gospel they stayed there and they
preach the gospel boldly in the Lord
they preach the gospel boldly in the
Lord that's why I say you can't be a
coward in a Christian and the Holy
Spirit does not come into Christian
brethren to make them cowards the Holy
Spirit enables Christians to be bold and
that's what we see here that despite
there's great opposition and and the
Gentiles really don't understand but
they're being fed this false narrative
and that's stirring them up with hatred
against the Apostles in the church and
they stood their ground they stayed
there a long time speaking boldly

in the Lord which gave testimony unto the word of His grace so the fact that they stayed there and preached it boldly that gave testimony that that proved though the word of His grace and and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands so while they're preaching they're boldly the Holy Spirit is enabling them to do miracles but the multitude of the city was divided and part held with the Jews and part held with the Apostles and again we've got to be careful with verse 4 we have to read it in the context of verse 1 that a great multitude of Jews were believing so so when it says here a part held with the Jews and a part held with the Apostles the Jews were divided some Jews were following the unbelieving Jews and some Jews were following the believing Jews and same with the Gentiles so that both Jews and Gentiles were being divided the the gospel was polarizing it was polarizing it wasn't something that was ignored people took in to either camp and when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles and also have the Jews with their rulers so again there is believing Jews and believing Gentiles and these believers are being assaulted now there's so much hatred toward them not unlike what we saw in the opening video so when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles and also of the Jews with their rulers to use them despitefully and to stone them they were aware of it and they fled to Lystra and Derbe so just again in terms of our geography this is still in Turkey but you can see these are neighboring cities so the Lystra is the closest city and then a bit further down is Derby so they continue or they they go to these neighboring cities so we

work in verse six so they were aware of this they fled onto Lystra and Derbe so this is a when it really gets really intense now they're going to take the gospel now to the cities of Laconia Laconia and unto the region that lies round about their preaching this is all the area of Turkey what we know as modern day Turkey today and there they preach the gospel so so the gospel keep them this is the the assist part of the agenda now that we read in Acts 1 that the the Gospel message has to go out to the ends of the earth and so here we see through persecution the gospel going out spreading out to the ends of the earth or beginning now to go to the ends of the earth and they're sent there a certain man at Lystra who is impotent in his feet being a [___] from his mother's womb who never walked who had never had walked the same and so everybody would know that this man never walked it it would be well known the same hurt Paul speak who steadfastly beholding him that is Paul looking at the the man who cannot speak the lame man and perceiving that he had faith to be healed said with a loud voice he can imagine the confidence that Paul had that hit this man even though he had never walked that the confidence that the Apostle had that this man would now walk so he says with a loud voice so everybody can hear stand upright on your feet and he leaped and walked and so I covered in Acts chapter 5 this whole area of the healing and how Luke is showing Theophilus that the works of Paul are the same as the works of Peter which are the same as the works of Christ and so he's showing this thread between Paul's ministry Peter's ministry and Jesus's ministry and so they think

so that Theophilus can understand that Paul is doing the works of Jesus Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit so that's in Acts chapter 5 if you missed that and you can see that on YouTube if you go to CGI now CGI digital network and when the people saw that what Paul had done they lifted up their voice so so first he lifts up his voice and says stand upright on your feet and then the man didn't just get up he's never walked he leapt and walked when the people saw this they lifted up their voices so they began to shout saying in the speech of laconia so this is again the the region the Gentile region within modern-day Turkey today so they're speaking in this Gentile language the gods are come down to us in the likeness of man so they had no way of explaining this how do you explain this so they as Gentiles had a narrative around these great gods that they were worshipping and so when they saw this miracle immediately they explained the miracle with this narrative that they have that it must be the gods that have come down in the likeness of men and they called Barnabas Jupiter and Paul mercurius because Paul was the chief speaker so even though both of them were out preaching the gospel it was clear that that Paul was the chief evangelist and so they called these men so Barnabas they called Jupiter and Paul they called mercury or Mercurius the soul so that they were just clear these are the gods that have come down to us in the form of men the priests of Jupiter which was before their city so he was the the key man in the city he brought oxen and Garland's unto the gates and he was ready to do sacrifice with the people so he was just okay we

need to worship these gods which when the Apostles and when we want to read this very very carefully I just slowed down so we really digest this and this is what Luke wants Theophilus to understand that if Paul was in this for the money if Paul's agenda was you know I'm selfish in any way I just want to make money here's the opportunity they are ready to worship Him they're ready to sacrifice to him if he wants to tax them or give or have them extract money from them or wealth from them in any way or anything from them this is his opportunity and so by reading this Theophilus is going to be very clear about the the sincerity and the purity of Paul's ministry and so here they say then they they see these men as Jupiter and Mercury and they're ready to sacrifice to them and then in verse 14 when the Apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this they tore their clothes and they ran in among the people this is urgent they tore their clothes they ran they cried out this is an urgent situation these men cannot worship us saying serves why do you do these things we also are men of like passions with you we're men we're human beings just like you the same frailties that you have we have same weaknesses the same passions you have we have these two why on earth would you elevate us and what we do is we preach unto you that you should turn from these vanities so stop worshipping vanity stop worshipping men turn to the Living God and worship Him so a true apostle a true prophet a true minister of God will never exalt himself because he knows how great God is and he knows the danger

that men get into when they start worshipping other men and so you see the sense of urgency that they have to deal with this situation where these men think that they're God's yes they perform this incredible miracle but under no circumstances do we want you to worship us and I think all of us who are in God's church or maybe who've been who are if you're not in God's church where you've been searching and you've been involved with church you've been involved with other religions and religious organizations we've all come across religious men with big egos they actually use God to puff up their ego to make themselves important and you have this sense from them that you know they kind of need God but God really needs them and they want everybody to understand how much God needs them and and anytime we get any sense of ego from a religious teacher we need to run we need to run we need true teachers of God or from God point people to God they don't point people to themselves and this is something that we really need to see very very clearly the the intensity with which Paul and Barnabus reacted to this worship we also are men of light passions with you and we preach unto you that you've got to turn from this nonsense unto the Living God which made heaven and earth and the sea and all things that are therein and we know that this Living God that he refers to is the Lord Jesus Christ the Lord Jesus Christ who came into his creation who was crucified who was in the grave for three days and three nights and then God the Father raised him from the dead because it is Jesus Christ that created the

heaven Jesus Christ that created the earth and the sea and all things that are therein and it's Jesus Christ who lives and so these men are saying you've got to turn from this vanity and worship the Lord Jesus Christ now in acts 10 remember we read this where Peter you see the same thing with Peter when he went into Cornelius's home so he went to Caesarea and Cornelius was waiting for him Cornelius had a vision of man was coming in and he's coming with the word of salvation and so he called together all of his kinsmen and his near friends Oh everybody's ready to hear what Peter has to say and as Peter was coming in so Peter knows this is the holy man here comes the holy man this is the man that I received the vision this is the apostle of god this is the Messenger of God and so when Peter was coming in Cornelius met him and what was Cornelius his reaction to this holy man he fell down at his feet and worshiped him I mean that's what what do you do when you come in contact with a true man of God well Cornelius could only do one thing is to fall down and worship the man but Peter yanked him up saying stand up man I myself and also a man same reaction as Paul no way under no circumstances do you worship me now this is how men reacted what about angels look in Revelation 19 when the the Apostle John meets this angel and he fell at his feet to worship the angel this this is a glorious angel not not a man this is a glorious divine being and so John falls at his feet to worship this angel and the angel said to me don't do this do not do this I am your fellow servant even though I am an angel I am a fellow servant with

you and of your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus
worship God worship is exclusively for God don't worship me don't fall at my feet don't don't see me as some holy being that you need to worship no worship God and that's it for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy and so he's just saying that the brethren that have the testimony of Jesus will have the spirit of prophecy but you make sure that you worship God and again in Revelation 22 and verse 8 he says and I John saw these things and heard them and when I had heard and seen I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed these things to me so it was just so overwhelming and John is just so overwhelmed by this whole everything that he's experienced in this angel that is making these things known to him and so he falls down to worship the angel then he said to me don't do this for I am your fellow servant and of your brethren the prophets and of them which keep the sayings of this book worship God so even the prophets he's saying here you know I'm an angel but I'm a fellow servant with you you're an apostle and we're fellow servants with the prophets so angels apostles prophets anybody no one is worthy of worship except for God so only worship God now let me just pause here for a moment and just compare this let's just compare this you know to the Islamic religion which we opened up in Dearborn Michigan we can see that Islam is very demanding
Islam is not sort of you know would you like to be a Muslim all over the world we're seeing this very forced coercion to conversion to Islam or or subjugation to Islam according to Sharia

in this book this is there's a book here
I'm just going to quote from called the
deception of Allah a Bioman book called
christian prince who speaks Arabic very
fluently and is able to go through the
Quran and the hadith and the Sarah in in
Arabic detail and so he write he wrote
this book the deception of Allah and we
want answers to these questions so in
Bukhari this is a sahih hadith a hasan
hadith very trustworthy hadith there are
many Hadees that were just made up and
not trustworthy but this is trustworthy
hadith the Prophet did his ablution that
is his his washing before he he prays so
the people were taking the remaining of
his water and spread it all over their
faces even to the point some of the
prophet's companions were fighting over
his leftover water so they saw this
prophet as so holy
when he's washing himself the discarded
water from his ablution they saw that is
holy and they were just knocking
themselves out to to have this discarded
water all over them he goes on to say I
witnessed Bilal again this is authentic
hadith I witnessed Bulow picking the
left over water that the Prophet had
used for his ablution and lots of the
Muslims were seizing of that water so
they were fighting with each other to
get to the water and applying it on
their faces whoever could not get
anything of it would apply the moisture
from the hand of his companion so the
one who did get the water they would get
the moisture off the companions hand to
spread it all over his face and here now
we'll see some more of the hadith this
is Sahih Muslim again authentic hadith
the wife of Muhammad used to collect the
hair of the Prophet in the water so they
could drink it to be blessed by it so

they would take his hair put the hair in the water and then drink the water so that they could be blessed by this holy prophet again in the book of ceará Allah Allah the father of Abu Hanbal said my father used to have three of the prophets hairs and he used to kiss them and drink the water he washed them with and he asked for it to be kept in his grave so he can face Allah with it and it goes on and on and on where we can very clearly see that these men of the desert these Arabs who really didn't understand Scripture they saw Muhammad as a holy man and they actually worshipped him they worshiped him and and really if and we can't blame Muhammad because he couldn't read he didn't have these scriptures we really have to blame this gibreel whoever this spiritual being was that that forced Muhammad to follow him who taught him that this is ok but if Muhammad could really would have read these scriptures and he would have seen that this is not the way human beings should react to other human beings who have the same passions with them and I think we want our Muslim brothers and sisters to consider these scriptures and consider the behavior of the of their early Muslim brethren so here Jesus Christ warns us he says here therefore all things whatsoever you would that men would do to you even so you should do this to them for this is the law and the prophets so he says men enter boy so all human beings so there's no Jesus Christ doesn't say that you know treat some human beings one way and other human beings another and again if you think of Islamic two-tier system where there are Muslims and then there are

Catholics call heirs who are filthy and you can treat kafirs any way you want to but Muslims you can treat with respect Jesus didn't teach that he said whatever you would want any human being to do to you that's how you should treat them that's the golden rule and he says for this is the law and the prophets all the prophets taught this and the law of God teaches this have respect for human beings who are made in God's image they are human beings are made in God's image and we know whatever this spiritual entity was that that Mohammed didn't have the scriptures to understand who who what it was it clearly hates human beings and it's happy to have human beings heads chopped off who are made in the image of God and here he's saying this is the law and the prophets enter you in at the strait gate these are the words of our Lord these are the words of Jesus Christ he's saying there's a strait gate and it's now enter in at the strait gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many there be which go in thereat in other words don't look for something that's popular don't look for a movement that's sweeping the world we've got billions of adherents and everybody's going that way Christ is saying no the strait gate is narrow and there are a few that find it and enter in so don't go with the majority look for the minority and look for people are actually following and doing what Jesus Christ teaches because Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leads unto life and few there be that find it you know these are just words we can just read them as words or we can understand that Jesus Christ is trying to tell us

something and and it's something that we would do well to heed that a lot of people are going to be shipwrecked and if we follow the crowd if we follow what's popular we're going to be shipwrecked with them we need to enter in at the narrow gate we need to read our Lord's instructions carefully and then follow them and then he says in that context that the way of destruction is brought in that context he says beware of false prophets so he's saying look out they're coming they're coming beware of them have an eye out we know what to look for they're going to come to you in sheep's clothing so they're going to appear religious they're gonna sound the part they're gonna have a story and if you're not careful you're gonna fall for it

Christ says beware on the outside they're full of sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves and that's why Paul and Barnabas and Peter reacted so strongly don't do this we're we're men of light passions with you we know what's inside us don't worship us you'll be shipwrecked if you worship us worship God who is pure who is holy and who is true so these false prophets inwardly they are ravening wolves how will you tell do you listen to the story do you get caught up in the narrative hey that sounds really good you know that kind of makes sense I can see that

well that really sounds good or is it the passion oh he's so passionate it it must be true or is it you know well so many people believe this it must be true I think it was Hitler said if you tell a big enough lie often enough everyone will believe you what do we well how do we discern how do we tell Jesus tells us

how to tell you shall know them by their
fruits

that's how we will know do men gather
grapes of thorns or figs of thistles so
if you if you're hungry and you want
some fruit

do you go to weeds you go to thorn
bushes looking for fruit no we know
where to I want grapes I'm going to go
to a grapevine

I want apples I'm going to go to an
apple tree I want figs I'm gonna go to a
fig tree we know this this is common
sense Christ is saying apply some common
sense to your religious walk apply some
common sense to your search for truth
step back

don't don't listen to the narrative look
at the fruit look at the actions and the
consequences of the actions ideas have
consequences ideas have consequences so
what's the what's the ideology what are
people doing when they're programmed by
the ideology and what is the fruit of
that ideology that's what Christ is
saying forget the narrative look at the
actions look at the consequences so he
says even so every good tree brings
forth good fruit but a corrupt tree
brings forth evil fruit a good tree
cannot bring forth evil fruit neither
can a corrupt tree bring forth good
fruit this is common sense every tree
that does not bring forth good fruit is
cut down and cast into the fire
therefore by their fruits you shall know
them and again I know I don't want to
pick on Islam particularly but it's the
issue of our time and it's sweeping the
world and and terrorism is sweeping the
world and so we do need to ask our
Muslim brethren some of the fundamental
questions you know this this is the
fruit over 1400 years 270 million people

have been killed if we look at this is
this is called the religion of peace
this is a website the religion of peace
calm and they track what's happening
with Islam around the world and so
you'll see here different stories this
is the picture of the week this is a
child caught in the 1400 year old soon
Shiite conflict so after Mohammed died
immediately after there's this conflict
over who will succeed him and and this
has been going on for 1400 years it's
not that he died and he didn't name a
successor and so the Brethren just come
together and say oh no you you should be
the successor not a problem you're the
most qualified no there's been a power
struggle for 1400 years and then they go
on and they show different articles and
different atrocities that are going on
this is fruit and we need to explain
this how is it that the most devout
Muslims the Muslims that are there
really care about the Quran and really
care about the hadith and don't do
anything without checking with these
source texts how is it that they're
responsible for all of this terror
they're here in one week from September
24th to 30th fifty-three attacks 288
people killed 291 injured four suicide
blasts in 16 different countries for the
month of September 199 attacks eleven
hundred and sixty-one people killed
fourteen hundred 28 injured 26 suicide
blasts 30 in 33 countries just in the
month of September alone since 9/11
fifteen years ago 29 thousand three
hundred and eighty nine deadly terrorist
attacks people have died in almost
30,000 terrorist attacks since 9/11 and
we have 1400 years of history that show
that whatever gibreel was teaching
Muhammad and again we can't blame

Muhammad because he couldn't read the Scriptures and he had this encounter with this spiritual being which he believed was representing God which told him he was representing God look at the look at the fruit if we look at some of the most notorious murderers of our of our in in recent history they think of Hitler and all the people he killed think of Joseph Stalin think of mud say Tom well this is nothing compared to Islam and and and they're dead and gone whatever they did it's over now Islam continues as a thirty thousand attacks since 9/11 so we need answers we need answers we need to we need to confront the issue of our time and and we need is it a Reformation we don't know we need Muslims to look at this and and look at these scriptures and what is wrong with these scriptures what is wrong with the words of Christ who is warning us that there are going to be spiritual entities that want to defeat us and they're going to take advantage of men to give us false doctrine and Christ is saying don't be fooled by it look at the fruit of the doctrine don't don't listen to the doctrine and the narrative even if it sounds good look at the fruit because it's impossible for a good tree to bear bad fruit and it's impossible for a bad tree to bear good fruit and so this is we need to follow the example of our Lord now in Matthew 4 Christ interacts with this spiritual being the devil takes him up to an exceeding high mountain and shows him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them and says to him all these things will I give you so this shows us that the devil is the lord of this world and he owns all the kingdoms

of this world and he's willing to give them to Christ if Christ will fall down and worship Him Christ refused he said get lost Satan for it's written again you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve so you know here the devil didn't tell him how the glory of these kingdoms would be transferred to him but the Bible does tell us that the devil is a being of violence and so had Christ accepted this deal it would have somehow involved violence to transfer the wealth of these kingdoms to Christ but Christ didn't accept the deal now notice that Christ says here that only God should be worshipped don't don't don't worship anybody else but God whether it's an angel or a man or whoever it is only worship God now look at John 20 verse 26 this is after a Christ resurrection when when Thomas was with the disciples and then Jesus appeared noticed the doors being shut so the doors were locked Jesus is now a resurrected being and he just enters through the walls and appears to them and he says to the PISA beyond here then says he de thomas reach here your finger and behold my hands and reach your hand and thrust it into my side and do not be faithless but believing so it's so doubting Thomas he wasn't he wasn't too sure about Christ living after his crucifixion and Thomas answered and said unto him my Lord and my God my Lord and my god Jesus just finished saying worship only God don't worship anybody else but God and now Thomas is worshiping the Lord Jesus and Jesus is accepting his worship because Jesus is the son of God and he is in the god family where there's a father and a son and we humans are made in their image and Christ is worthy of

our worship because he is our Creator
and so here he says Jesus says to him
Thomas he doesn't say he doesn't panic
and say don't worship me he says Thomas
because you've seen me and you've
believed blessed are they that have not
seen and yet believed
so Thomas experienced the Living Christ
in his presence we don't have that
experience but we have the scriptures
and we have the writings of the Apostles
and the prophets and and and all the
entire Bible in the entire Bible points
to Jesus Christ and as we put two and
two together we see this very pure and
sensible and holy doctrine and then we
look at the fruit of the doctrine when
people really obey Christ they bear good
fruit and Christ tells us that that's
the test look at the fruit and so this
all makes sense and so we believe and
Christ says were blessed even though he
hasn't come in our presence and we
haven't interacted with him directly we
do have a relationship with him and we
know that he's with us and we know from
the teachings that he in fact is Lord
and we accept him as Lord and we worship
him as Lord and he
so good he is good and we worship Him
and many other signs truly did Jesus in
the presence of his disciples which are
not written in this book so so they had
complete confidence about who Jesus was
and what he was capable of but these are
written so what is written is written
that you might believe that Jesus is the
Christ and again when the devil tried to
attack or deceive or seduced Christ the
way Christ withstood him was to turn to
the Scriptures three times it is written
it is written again but it's written
again so Christ defended himself with
the Scriptures and these things are

written for us to defend ourselves with
the scriptures that we can read the
scriptures and see what makes sense and
reject what doesn't make sense and that
believing you might have life through
his name there is no other name the only
name you enter in at the strait gate
Jesus Christ is the strait gate there is
no other name by which men may be saved
so enter in at the strait gate now here
in John 10 he says truly truly I say to
you he that enters not by the door into
the sheepfold but climbeth some other
way the same as a thief and a robber so
the only way into the sheepfold is
through the Covenant that God has made
with man the Covenant that he has made
that he made with Abraham which cascaded
down to Israel to Jacob so that
Israelite covenant that is the only way
into the sheepfold and if you try to
come in some other way you're a thief
and a robber and your deeds will bear
you out we will see the fruit of anybody
who tries to enter into the sheepfold
and doesn't come in through the Covenant
so he that enters not by the door of the
Covenant into the Sheep holes but climbs
up some other way the same as a thief
and a robber but he that enters in by
the door is the Shepherd
of the sheep and so when Christ enters
the picture we look at all the
scriptures all the Scriptures relating
to the Covenant and he fulfills them all
and we say glory to Jesus glory to Jesus
Christ this is the Messiah yes it's the
Christ Yeshua we praise him because we
look at the door and he fits perfectly
he is the Shepherd of the Sheep to him
the porter opens and the sheep hear his
voice and he calls his own sheep by name
and leads them out and when he puts
forth his own sheep he goes before them

he doesn't send them into danger and sit back and throw dust at the enemy and say good luck as you kill yourselves no he goes first and then we look at what we look at his life and we say we are Christians and we do what he did he doesn't lead from behind he leads from the front and so he leads them out to him the porter opens in his sheep hear his voice and he calls his own sheep by name and he leads them out and when he puts forth his own sheep he goes before them and the Sheep follow him so this is what Luke is writing now in acts to show how the sheep are following their master and they're doing exactly what Christ did before they know his voice and a stranger they will not follow but they will flee from him for they know not the voice of strangers so if we are immersed in the scriptures if we are immersed in the covenants if we are immersed in God's Word and like Abraham we trust God God is not a liar it's impossible for God to lie God is true and when he makes an oath first of all it's impossible for him to lie he just has to say the word and we're good but then on top of his word which is it can never be false on top of that word he makes an oath and so we go by God's Word were familiar with God's Word and anybody who comes to us outside of God's Word we run away from them we're not interested we only want God's Word so this parable spoke Jesus unto them but they didn't understand what he was saying then said Jesus unto them truly truly I say to you I am the door of the Sheep all that ever came before me are thieves and robbers but the Sheep did not hear them because they understood the Covenant and it didn't match I am the

door By Me If any man enter in he shall
be saved there's just no other name I'm
sorry I'm not sorry I'm not sorry at all
I understand this repent and follow
Jesus and there's no other name by which
men may be saved so I am the door By Me
If any man enter in he shall be saved
and shall go in and out and find pasture
this is a loving God when you come into
Christ he looks after you he nourishes
you and not just in this present life
forever he doesn't he's not a hard
taskmaster the thief comes not but for
to steal that's why he says look at the
fruit and if you see robbery and theft
and violence and bad fruit this is not
from Christ the thief comes not but to
steal and to kill and to destroy that's
the same take a look I am calm
that they might have life I'm not coming
for them to have death I'm not coming
for them for destruction I'm all about
life I'm the Creator I create and I want
them to have life and to have it more
abundantly and to have it for eternity
it's all about creation and living and
joy it's not about destroying and lying
and stealing and coveting I am The Good
Shepherd there are bad shepherds I'm The
Good Shepherd the Good Shepherd for the
Sheep the Good Shepherd doesn't send the
Sheep out to lose their lives be
miserable destroy your life go and kill
yourself the Good Shepherd doesn't do
that the Good Shepherd gives his life to
protect the
sheep but he that is a hireling so
somebody who is not committed to the
Sheep just an employee and not the
Shepherd whose own the sheep or not that
the sheep don't belong to him say
there's nobody love for them doesn't
care about them and it might say the
words Jesus cares about us he owns us we

belong to him and he wants to give us
life whose own the sheep or not he sees
the wolf coming sees the devil coming
and leaves the sheep and runs for his
life and the wolf catches them and
scatters the sheep so there was never
any real care for the sheep it's really
using the Sheep and and Paul could have
used those brethren that saw him as
mercury and he could have used them for
his own end and then when there's
trouble run for the hills and get
another group know they're following
Christ the hiring fleas because he's a
Harlem and he doesn't care for the sheep
I am The Good Shepherd and I know my
sheep and I'm known by my sheep as the
father knows me even so I know the
father and I lay down my life for the
Sheep and this is what you'll see as
well now with the true apostles they all
lay down their lives for the Sheep
because they were following Christ they
were following the Good Shepherd and he
went before them and they followed after
now Christ made it very clear not to
worship anybody but God look at
revelation 1 and he had in his right
hand seven stars this is John seeing
Jesus Christ and out of his mouth went a
sharp two-edged sword and his
countenance was as the Sun that shines
in its strength this this is the
resurrected Jesus Christ the Living
Christ after his crucifixion and when I
saw him I fell at his feet as dead John
was just astonished and he fell down at
Christ's feet now remember when he fell
down at the Angels feet the angels were
very quick to say don't do that don't
don't do not do that
he falls here at Christ's feet and he
laid his right hand upon me saying and
he doesn't say get up don't do that

don't worship me he didn't say that to
Thomas he doesn't say it to John he you
ain't laid his right hand upon me saying
don't be afraid I am the first and the
last and every single time when there's
a divine presence from God whether it's
God himself or one of his angels it is
frightening for men and every single
time there's immediate reassurance don't
be afraid

there's never violence there's never
violence and you know poor Mohammed was
in this cave and encountered this being
that was extremely violent tried to kill
him and he just had to submit to this
this entity but this is not again if he
could have read the scriptures he would
see that every time there's a divine
presence with human beings it's
reassuring and as powerful as Christ is
he reassures John don't be afraid I'm
the first and the last back to X 14
where they said why are you doing this
don't do this we're men just like you we
want you to turn to God then in verse 16
who in times past suffered all nations
to walk in their own ways so he was
dealing with Israel and the rest of the
nations could do whatever they wanted
and he allowed that nevertheless he left
not himself without witness in that he
did good and gave us rain from heaven
and fruitful seasons filling our hearts
with good with food and gladness so even
though he wasn't directly interacting
with these other nations there was still
a witness that anybody kind of looking
around could figure out that there is a
God and with these sayings they barely
restrained the people that they had not
done sacrifice unto them so it took all
he could do to get them not to worship
him not to treat him as some special
holy man that needed to be exalted above

the people he really had to lay it down
for them and say look down
do this and he was barely successful
they were they were really on the verge
of doing sacrifice to him but he managed
to contain it before it spread and there
came there certain Jews from Antioch and
Iconium so again if we look at our map
here you can see where Antioch he is and
Iconium and they're coming down into
Lystra and Derbe and they persuaded the
people again they've got some kind of
counter narrative that they used to
persuade the people and then having
stoned Paul you can see then that they
are willing to stone him
they drew him out of the city supposing
he had been dead and who knows maybe he
really was dead but they were very
hostile toward him they didn't want him
teaching they they stoned him there was
this great hostility toward him and then
they thought he was dead
howbeit as this disciple stood round
about him he rose up he got up and came
into the city and the next day he
departed with Barnabas to Derby and now
he's off to Derby and when they had
preached the gospel to that city and had
taught many they returned again to
Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch so
again you can see just how courageous
these men were they would you know even
though they fled and they went and they
preached the gospel elsewhere they still
they came back because they knew what was
there they knew the hostility that was
there but they were there to preach the
gospel and so they came back to these
cities to the disciples that were there
and they continued to preach the gospel
to those cities and they taught many
returned to Lystra and to Iconium and
Antioch

confirming the souls of the disciples so you can see again that the heart of a Shepherd that they didn't just leave the Brethren and oh well who knows what's happened they've gone back to confirm them make sure that they're stable confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith and again this isn't the backdrop of tremendous hostility you know being willing to be stoned to death the incredible persecution going back and make

sure that brethren understand this is the truth the truth will set you free and and perfect love casts out fear and confirming them and giving them these encouraging teachings from the Scriptures so that they hold on to the faith in the face of adversity in the face of persecution in the face of hostility exhorting them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God and it really truly makes me sick makes me ill when I see so-called ministers of God preaching this health and wealth gospel and hey if you just follow me if you put your hand on the underdone that sits computer screen or the television screen if you send me your money you'll be blessed for every dollar you give God will give you a \$10 so give me \$1,000 you get 10,000 give me a million you get 10 million and in this kind of bizarre teaching which has nothing to do with the Scriptures the scriptures are all about the truth and the truth is that Jesus Christ is Lord and the truth is the devil doesn't like that very much and so we must preach the gospel and it is through much tribulation not a little bit of tribulation you have to go back and tell

these brethren look don't give up don't
weaken it is through much tribulation
that we will enter into that kingdom of
God and we will dwell there eternally
and so whatever suffering you might have
to experience in this life it's nothing
compared to the glory that's going to be
revealed in us so it is through much
tribulation we must enter into the
kingdom of God and when they had
ordained them elders in every Church and
again you can see the heart of a
shepherd that they wanted stability in
these cities so they didn't just preach
how people believe and then leave them
alone they went back confirming the
souls of the disciples encouraging them
and then making sure that there were
structure in each of these cities in
each of these congregations so that they
would have that stability and and
wouldn't allow the devil to get in and
then caused the congregation's to
unravel so when they had confirmed them
elders in every Church so every church
needed to have that autonomy and that
local presence
they wanted to so these are not cooking
cookie cutter congregations where
everything is controlled from head
office and and it's like you know yellow
pencils everywhere and do as you're told
no there's there's real life and real
believing brethren in the Holy Spirit
and where the Holy Spirit is there's
freedom and so within each congregation
there they they have this autonomy but
we need to make sure that there's
leadership there to protect the Brethren
and so they ordained elders in everyone
notice plural it's not ordained an elder
in every congregation they ordained
elders plural in every congregation
because no one elder must have that role

where whatever he says goes Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the elders have different strengths and weaknesses and like passions of what that all men have but you know one weakness that one elder has the other elder has a strength in that area or where one elder is strong that he can support an elder that might be weak in that area so when you have multiplicity and plurality of eldership that allows the Holy Spirit to work and the different elders then know what their gifts are and they can then serve the Brethren with their gift and when something comes up where they're not gifted in that area they can yield and allow another elder who is gifted in that area to look after the Brethren with with their gift and so this is where you don't have this battle for supremacy you don't have this violent conflict for for leadership because Jesus Christ is the leader and Jesus Christ is alive and the Holy Spirit allows us to act as the body of Christ led by Christ instructed by Christ and to do the works of Christ and so they go into each congregation and ordain elders and they prayed with fasting and then commended them to the Lord so they're leaving now but they're making sure that the leadership is in place and there's a connection between the elders the leadership and Jesus Christ so they now commend them to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to do its work again it's the acts of the Holy Spirit and although we're looking at a lot of tacular acts with the apostles there's also these sort of micro acts that we need that we shouldn't read over and so the Holy Spirit is also now working right here in every congregation as they commend them to the Lord on whom they

believed and after they had passed through basilia they came to Pamphylia and again if we just looked at our geography here you'll get a sense of where presidio and Pamphylia are and so they go through here now and when they had preached the word in purga they went down to a Tilia so you can just see how busy they are going all over and preaching the Word of God and then from there they sailed to Antioch from where they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled so that's where the in other words that's where they started when they were in Antioch with all the Brethren there they came from Jerusalem went to Antioch and the holy spirits that separate unto me Barnabas and Paul for the work which I have called them and so now they've gone and they've preached the gospel to the Gentiles and all of this is unfolding and now they've made their way back to Antioch where their particular ministry began and when they were come and had gathered the church together they rehearsed all that God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles so in other words they started in Antioch the Holy Spirit said separate stuff Paul and Barnabas the Brethren prayed over Paul and Barnabas laying hands on them they went their way and then they experienced all these things that we've been reading in chapters 13 and 14 and they saw now how the their ministry is being blessed and how the Brethren are being multiplied and now they come back to where it all started to tell the Brethren in Antioch look this is what's happened this is how much God is working with us this is the fruit of our labor and so they explained

to them everything that God had done and how he has opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles

and there they abode a long time with the disciple so they stayed there for a really long time and again it's really interesting I'll just again point out this map where all of this work is being done and all the early congregations are all in these areas I mean isn't it amazing that when you look at this map today looking at Turkey Iraq Iran Greece all of these areas but primarily the Middle East they're all Muslim nations today so all of these churches have been wiped out all of the descendants of these brethren have been slaughtered or or they've been subjugated and it isn't that amazing that now the Christian faith which was thriving so well among the Gentiles has been completely subjugated but that's a story for that's a story for another day

and where we're gonna go next as acts 15 so here they're showing how the door has opened to the Gentiles and and they're telling the Jews back in Antioch look the Gentiles are now coming into the church and the Holy Spirit is working and this is this is God's doing and and now when we get into acts 15 this is gonna create incredible conflict and in a sense this this is gonna plague the church the the entrance of the Gentiles into the church and the resistance that some of the Jews had to the entrance of the Gentiles and the misunderstanding that some of the Gentiles had as they entered into the church this is going to plague the church really for the rest of the church's life until Christ returns but there is a true remnant and there are elements that we can look for to understand where is that true remnant

today and in fact we would rapidly recommend if you are new to our teachings to go to CGI org and search on our website there for where is the true church and I think that'd be a great great read for you now we like the early church observe the holy days and next week Wednesday night actually if Wednesday is the feast of atonement we've just had the Feast of Trumpets we now have the feast of atonement what the Jews call Yom Kippur and then the following week we have the Feast of Tabernacles and so we will be not holding our Bible study again until two weeks from now so we will resume not next week not the week after that but three weeks from now and then we're going to get into acts 15 I think you'll find it quite fascinating to see the impact of Gentiles coming into the Jewish church and again people don't realize that the early church was Jewish and then having Gentiles coming into the church and the conflict that that creates so I hope this study was helpful to you again I'm gonna head over to CGI org slash webcast and if there's anybody wants to chat there we can chat for a little bit and look forward to seeing you God willing in three weeks time god bless Jesus is Lord