



The gospel does not relate to the rest of Christian truth as the first step relates to a staircase, but rather as the heart relates to the rest of the circulatory system (or as the brain relates to the nervous system). The rest of Christian truth is just an unfolding of the gospel — it is the working out of its implications and ramifications, intellectually, spiritually, behaviorally.

Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some questions to get you started.

Reflection Questions

- What questions and comments do you have about the sermon and supporting texts? What stands out to you in Acts 13?

Read Acts 13

- Note the leaders in the church in Antioch:
 - Barnabas*
 - Simeon* – from Niger (north Africa)
 - Lucius* – from Cyrene (north coast of Africa, west of Egypt)
 - Manaen* – foster-brother of Herod Antipas
 - Saul*

- What do you make of this diverse mix of people?
- What were the leaders doing?
- What was the result of their actions?
- How do you think the church felt about this?

Look at a map to note where Barnabas and Saul/Paul travelled.

Take note of the distances they travelled.

- Why do you think it is at this point in the account that the name Paul for Saul is introduced (look at where they are)?
- v14** note there are two Antiochs (this one is west and north of the other Antioch)
- Summarize Paul's address. Who is Paul talking to? What are the highlights of the talk? What does he emphasize? What does Paul say is the heart of Christianity?
- v39** is the first time Paul uses the word "*justify*". What does this word mean? Do some looking for other places in the New Testament where *justify-justification* is used.
- How do people respond to Paul's message? Why do some accept it and other reject it?

Thinking & living a little deeper

- How can we communicate the gospel to someone so that they can receive Christ and become children of God?
- How do you understand the quote on the top of the other side?