

Acts
Passionate Pursuit of Missions
Acts 13:1-52

Someone once advised, "When traveling, you should lay out all your clothes and all your money. Then take half your clothes and twice the money!" That sounds pretty wise because traveling usually costs more than anticipated, and not just in terms of dollars spent. Murphy's Law often holds true on the road: Nothing is as easy as it looks; everything takes longer than you think; and if anything can go wrong, it will! (Tony Merida, *Acts*)

1. The missionary endeavor requires sensitivity to the Spirit.
2. The missionary endeavor requires boldness and courage.
3. The missionary endeavor requires unity of purpose.
4. The missionary endeavor requires centrality of the gospel.

The gospel is central to the message of the missionary endeavor because of what faith in Christ provides. In Christ our sins are forgiven, and we are made right (justified) with God. The law cannot justify us; it can only condemn us as the sinners we are. But God justifies, makes right, and sets free those who will place their faith in Jesus Christ. Will you place your trust in Christ and His gospel today?

For further consideration

Acts 13 reveals the significance of our response to the gospel. How might this affect our evangelism efforts and how we present the gospel? What are some things that we can learn from the church in Antioch about making the gospel known in the world? What do we learn about opposition to the gospel and how does this chapter encourage us to handle it? How was Paul both faithful and flexible in his evangelism efforts and what lessons do we learn from his example, especially if we are going on a mission trip? Take some time to read back through Paul's sermon and consider which parts resonate most with you. How do you prepare to be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit even in times when your gospel efforts have been rejected?