

Scripture

Introduction- CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS EXCITING, WE SEE MIRACLES, VICTORIES, AND FRIGHTENED BOYS

1. This was Paul's first Missionary Journey, a great battle was fought, and changes made
2. Saul of Tarsus became "Paul", Mark soon left them and fled back home, Paul took command
3. There are battles to be fought today, new names to be given, but unfortunately there will also be those who will look back, and will turn back.

I.- THE WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM MEN OF GOD

- A. THE CITY OF PAPHOS** The capitol of the Island of Cyprus Very important- copper originated here
 1. This was the city of Venus- worshippers of Aphrodite- very religious- was it good enough?
 2. This city was the center of Commerce in the area, money & government headed up here.
 3. It is natural that the Apostle would come through here, and preach the gospel to them.
- B. THE RULER WAS SERGIUS PAULUS** - written up by Luke in Acts, and also in secular history.
 1. The man is called Prudent in the scriptures, a man of understanding- a Philosopher
 2. This man had a thirst for knowledge, he was willing to hear and listen to the preacher
 3. There are men like this in our government today, and they need Christ like Sergius Paulus
- C. HIS COUNSELLOR WAS A FALSE PROPHET, SORCER, BAR-JESUS, 6b & 3**
 1. Bar-Jesus means the son of Jesus, his name Elymas was Arabic for wise man
 2. This Jewish fortune teller and sorcerer tried to rule the mind of the ruler
 3. There are some Jewish fortune tellers trying to rule the minds of our leaders, and to control our lives to the exclusion of all personal freedom- if they do- Gospel will be out

II.- THE WORLD WATCHED A BATTLE BETWEEN GOD AND SATAN- The pawns were Paul and Elymas

- A. THE MAGICIAN ATTACKED FIRST 8b & 9** Truth cannot be allowed by those who would control men.
 1. The Pro-Counsel was believing the truth- Satan launched an attack by interrupting.
 2. He spared neither argument or insult as he withstood Paul and Barnabas
 3. He probably revealed Christ Jesus as crucified, couldn't allow Paulus to make up his own mind
- B. PAUL COUNTER ATTACKED 9-10 VERBALLY WITH DISCERNMENT AND POWER**
 1. Paul's eyes might have been weak- but he could see the magician's heart- I Cor 3:10 Judging
 2. A 3 fold accusation- Subtlety, mischief; Child of devil, enemy of righteousness-
 3. A question- Wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?(good for today)
- B. PAUL CONTINUED THE ATTACK WITH FORCE, 11 A PHYSICAL ATTACK BY GOD'S POWER**
 1. "The hand of the Lord is upon thee" men today need to be reminded of this!
 2. JUDGMENT- thou shalt be blind, MERCY- for a season- God took Judas' soul, Herod's life,
 3. Paul dared to attack- his name was changed like many / Nebuchadnezzar's Reason, others when they dared to wrestle with the problems that they faced.

III.- THE WORLD SAW VICTORY & DEFEAT, DESERTION, AND FAITHFULNESS

- A. PAUL FOUGHT THE BATTLE, CLAIMED THE VICTORY, MOVED ON AHEAD ON HIS JOURNEY**
 1. He fought the magician because he got in the way of his converting Paulus!
 2. Mark got homesick and took off- but Paul went on- faithfully on his journey
 3. Had Paul not been willing to preach- and fight- he would have been stopped here!
- B. WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL SEE THE MISSIONS THAT NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE LORD**
 1. Mission Services, Rest Home services, Tract distribution, Home canvassing, Bible studies,
 2. There is no limit of work for the person with vision. or lunch table evangelism!
 3. Most Christians never try to minister- will you???
- C. WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL FIGHT THE MAGICIANS WHO GET IN THE WAY.** ,Communist pressures,
 1. Drunkenness, Youth Dance Halls, Athletic Education, Pornography-movies, Socialism in Politics
 2. These are in the way- who will challenge them?/Modernism, liberalism in Churches- devils!
 3. We see little miracles today, because few dare to fight- to call a child of the devil what he is, or to strike out with the power of God that is available

Concl. WHAT CHARACTER IN THIS CHAPTER IS A TRUE PICTURE OF YOU?

1. Are you Sergius Paulus- then believe ! Don't let Satan keep you from receiving Jesus Christ!
2. Are you Elymas- you can choose to be different, or Mark- don't look back
3. We need people who are willing to have their names changed - in battle for the Lord.