

“VOICE OF PAUL-x-LUKE” SERIES

This series shows how the writings of the apostle Paul and his traveling-&-writing assistant Luke, all tie in together to construct “the basic frame of the entire New Testament” from 16 of its books. Under Paul’s unique influence, all these writings emphasize *God forging His People into a new kind of Followership whose “growth policy” involves embodying every kind of people & heritage.* It is within the framework of this people-building endeavor that (1) the Forgiving-&-Restoring Power of Jesus especially gets to be displayed, and where (2) its best participants are those whose lives have God’s Presence “pouring forth” within them.

study #17: A FREEING-GOSPEL & the Alert to a COUNTERFEIT-ONE Too”

— covering **Acts 13:4 – 15:2** plus interruptings in **Galatians** —

ACTION #1. Today’s chapters show just how divisive people’s “jealousies” can be. As we study what is famously called Paul’s *First Missionary Journey*, notice that Paul’s opponents purposely stirred up people’s jealousies against one another just to stop his message. (Some followers of Jesus even tried making the Gospel *trickier* for those they considered outsiders). Read all these super short passages at once, then afterwards discuss the questions below: **Acts 13:4-5 ... 13:13-14 ... 13:44-46 14:1-2 14:19and 14:26-15:2**

- these verses represent different places Paul & Barnabas preached—notice any “routines” they had?
- describe all the different kinds of reactions people had to Paul’s message about Jesus
- what different kinds of things were people even jealous about?
- Notice that in the last 2 passages, Paul and Barnabas’ opponents literally started following them around to their next destination, disputing their message—if Paul had to go back and write a letter to those churches, what would you recommend he should say or warn them about?

ACTION #2. Between the last verse we just read (**15:2**) and the very next verse, Paul paused to write the book of **Galatians**—a letter he then sent to all the new believers in Galatia whom he had just preached to on his *First Missionary Journey*. Read each of these passages from the book of Galatians and then discuss the questions below: **Galatians 1:6-9 ... 3:1-5 ...and 5:1-6.**

- this is the “strongest worded” book Paul ever writes—summarize what he is saying in your own words
- what does it sound like the new followers of Jesus in Galatia had been told after Paul had moved on?
- what wonderful and positive things about the true Gospel does Paul want the Galatians to hold onto?

ACTION #3. In our study of the book of Acts, we have just begun running into stories whose timeline is the same as when Paul wrote *other* New Testament books. In your group, discuss the following:

- Considering the above passages, re-describe how Paul’s *First Missionary Journey* and the book of **Galatians** are related, and how this might help a reader understand both books better.
- Who is going to read the quickly-written, passion-filled book of **Galatians** before next week’s study?
- Each person share briefly one final summary, personal take-away, “ah-ha!” insight, or new question or curiosity from today’s study.

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Galatians** (yes read it again)

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... (=daily reading + cover full NT+Psalms during series): read **GC** plus **Psalms 71-80**