

MISSIONS AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

I. EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE

A. The PARADIGM (Acts 13-16)

B. The PRINCIPLES

1. The _____ (“*they preached the Word*”) is of _____ importance: otherwise you have nothing more than the Peace Corps. (Acts 13:1-5)

2. A missionary endeavor is not an end in itself, but a means to a greater end—i.e., reaching the lost with the _____ and planting churches via _____.

3. Regarding the *selection* of these missionaries...
 - a. God chose believers who were _____ the Lord in their _____ church. (Acts 13:1-2a)

 - b. The _____ ultimately directed the selection by making it obvious to the local church _____. (13:2b, 4a)

 - c. The local church leadership _____ about this and _____ this as being from the Lord. (13:3)

4. Regarding the *qualifications* and *training* of these missionaries...
 - a. The _____ of the missionary team were at least deacons, and probably elders in their local church. (13:1)

 - b. Those chosen were doctrinally _____, personally _____, spiritually _____, and practically _____ right within their home church.

 - c. Their qualifications, giftedness, and faithfulness were _____ and _____ within their own local church _____ being involved in missions. (16:1-3)

5. Regarding the *support* of these missionaries...
- It appears to have come primarily via their _____ . (Antioch)
 - It involved them having to act as “_____” at times. (Acts 18:3)
 - It included support from _____ local churches. (Phil. 4:14-18)
 - It ultimately came from the _____. (Phil. 4:19)
6. Regarding the *accountability* of these missionaries...
- They were sent out by their _____. (Acts 13:3-4; 14:26)
 - They were allowed freedom to make decisions as the _____ led them. (Acts 16:6-12)
 - They gave an _____ back to their own local church by rehearsing all that _____ had done with them, and they also furloughed there. (Acts 14:27-28)
7. Some concluding thoughts...
- It is clear from Scripture that God has chosen _____ as the focal point of His ministry in this age, including missions. (Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Tim. 3:15)
 - The local church must in obedience to the Holy Spirit, _____ those whom _____ for the task of world evangelism and church planting. (Acts 13:1-13)

* What are some practical things you can learn from all of this?