

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 5/19-20/15
CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD: ACTS 13:42-43



SCRIPTURE

ACTS 13:42-43

⁴² As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

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BIG IDEA

After some of the people in Antioch of Pisidia started getting excited about the gospel of Jesus, Paul and Barnabas urged them to "continue in the grace of God." This shows us, yet again, a key thing about Christianity. From beginning to the end, the Christian life is a product of God's grace (ill-deserved blessing; unmerited favor; unconditional love). We are justified, sanctified, and glorified all by God as a gift. It is by grace through faith in Jesus that we *are saved* from the penalty of sin, are *being saved* from the power of sin, and *will be saved* from the presence of sin. Are you focussed on Jesus and His finished work (trusting Him to change you) or are you busy focussing on you and your works (trying to change yourself)?

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DISCUSSION

After some of the people in Antioch of Pisidia started getting excited about the gospel of Jesus, Paul and Barnabas urged them to "continue in the grace of God."

1. How is Paul and Barnabas' *urging* different than what we see a lot of times by preachers today?
2. Was there anything from the sermon, the big idea, or Acts 13 that **stood out** to you, **challenged** you, or **confused** you?

From beginning to the end, the Christian life is a product of God's grace (ill-deserved blessing; unmerited favor; unconditional love).

3. Can you think of any other Bible verses that agree with this statement? Disagree? Do you feel this is true from your own experience?

We are justified, sanctified, and glorified all by God as a gift. It is by grace through faith in Jesus that we are saved from the penalty of sin, are being saved from the power of sin, and will be saved from the presence of sin.

4. Which of these is (or was) most surprising to you and why?

Are you focussed on Jesus and His finished work (trusting Him to change you) or are you busy focussing on you and your works (trying to change yourself)?

5. If you are honest, do you focus more on what Jesus has done or what you should be doing? How does what Paul and Barnabas' urge these people in Acts 13 to do help you understand what your focus should be? What steps can you take to make sure your focus is on Jesus rather than yourself?