

*Recap of 12/26/21 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 14:1-7*

1. Many were responsive to the gospel in Iconium, yet Paul and Barnabas found that opportunity and opposition went hand in hand. That principle still is true today.
2. We can see a pattern developing at this point in Acts: a strong presentation of the gospel, followed by rejection and persecution (both verbal and physical); the apostles leave the area and preach the gospel in a new area, and the cycle begins again.
3. Their message was accompanied by miraculous signs and wonders. The purpose of these signs was:
  - to confirm God's hand in their ministry
  - to authenticate the message and the messenger
  - to identify their ministry with Jesus and the Twelve
4. These signs ceased with the second generation of believers (Hebrews 2:3,4).
5. "They [Paul and Barnabas] came into these places without any New Testament with the message of the gospel. What were their credentials? How could they prove their message was from God? The sign gifts were their credentials—they needed them. Today we have the entire Bible, and what people need today is to study this Bible and to learn what it has to say. If only we could get people to do that!" (McGee)
6. Their message was a message of grace ("...-the news that God loves people and has provided salvation as a free gift to those who put their faith in Jesus."-Richards) The message of grace necessarily eliminates a salvation of law (Mosaic or otherwise), works-based religion, self-effort, or any combination of works and grace.