

Acts 13:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Analysis

Many Jews and 'religious proselytes' followed Paul and Barnabas after the synagogue service, seeking further instruction. The apostles' exhortation to 'continue in the grace of God' emphasizes that Christian life begins and continues by grace. This phrase guards against both legalistic additions to grace and presumption that takes grace for granted, maintaining gospel balance.

Historical Context

The 'religious proselytes' were Gentile converts to Judaism who had undertaken full law-observance. Paul's message that grace, not law, sustains spiritual life offered them freedom they hadn't known.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you 'continue in the grace of God' without either adding works or presuming on God's kindness?
2. What does this teach about grace as both entry point and ongoing sustenance for Christian life?

Interlinear Text

λυθείσης δὲ τῆς συναγωγῆς ἡκολούθησαν πολλοὶ^{many}
was broken up Now G3588 when the congregation followed G190
G3089 G1161 G4864 G4183

τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ τῶν σεβομένων προσηλύτων τῷ^{of the Jews}
G3588 and G3588 religious proselytes G3588
G2453 G2532 G4576 G4339

Παύλω καὶ τῷ Βαρναβᾷ οἵτινες προσλαλοῦντες αὐτοὺς^{them}
Paul and G3588 Barnabas who speaking G846
G3972 G2532 G921 G3748 G4354 G846

ἐπειθον αὐτοὺς ἐπιμένειν τῇ χάριτι τοῦ θεοῦ^{of God}
persuaded them to continue G1961 G3588 G5485 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:23 (Grace): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Acts 14:22 (Kingdom): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

2 John 1:9 (References God): Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Hebrews 13:9 (Grace): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Hebrews 12:15 (Grace): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Acts 2:10 (Parallel theme): Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 14:3 (Grace): Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 17:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 13:50 (References Paul): But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Acts 28:23 (Kingdom): And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.