

★ The Folly of Earthly Wisdom ★

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 5

Paul at Mars' Hill

In last week's lesson, we learned how Paul was saved. We learned that God had a special job for him to do. God wanted Paul to leave Jerusalem and go to other cities and countries to preach about Jesus.

There was a church in the city of Antioch. Paul went there to teach the people. This church was filled with men and women who loved God. They also loved other people. They wanted to obey the Lord. They wanted others to hear about Jesus.

Missions Delivered

The Bible says that the people in this church in Antioch were the first to be called Christians. They were called Christians because everyone knew they loved and obeyed Jesus (Acts 11:26).

This was a good church because they obeyed the Bible. And they followed their pastor too. They knew their pastor was the leader God had given them.

The church at Antioch was the first church to send out missionaries. They wanted to obey God's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. And in Acts 13:2, God told them to send out Barnabas and Saul as missionaries.

The people in this church gave money to help their missionaries. They knew it was better to give their money so people could be saved than to buy things for themselves. In Philippians 4:15-17, Paul tells us that when you give money to missionaries, you are helping people hear about Jesus.

Opposition Defeated

The missionaries, Barnabas and Saul, made their first stop on the island of Cyprus. This is where Barnabas was born. One of the officials in the city of Paphos wanted to hear about Jesus. Do you think the devil was happy about that? Of course not! He made sure there was someone there to keep the deputy from being saved. A wicked man named Elymas told the deputy not to believe in Jesus. Paul (he is always called Paul in the Bible from now on) looked at Elymas. And by God's power, Paul told him that he was going to become blind for a while. Right away, Elymas became blind. When the deputy saw what happened, he believed in Jesus and was saved.

Paul and Barnabas went to many different cities. Many people believed on Jesus because of their preaching.

Superstitions Denounced

In Acts 15, we find that Paul went on another missionary trip. This time, he went with a man named Silas. Everywhere they went, they told people how to be saved. Many people believed on Jesus. But many people hated them.

