

## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AT WORK

Acts 13:1-12

### Introduction:

A. If we are to know how anything works it is infinitely helpful to have a working model.

- 1) This may be a "demonstrator"
- 2) Early patents required one!

B. In these scriptures we have a working model of the early church

- 1) It does not teach us all that they did
- 2) It is very helpful to all of us

### I. The Church had the Right Personnel Vs. 1

A. "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch"

- 1) prophets = prophetes = "a proclaimer of a divine message"
- 2) Teachers = didaskalos = "an instructor"
- 3) They had won some "notable people"

B. There were no modern "ministers"

- 1) None directed at one thing or one group - All directed to the body
- 2) Ministers of Education, Youth, Maintenance

### II. The Church did the Right Things Vs. 2

A. "As they ministered to the Lord....."

- 1) "ministered" = leitourgeo = "to serve", "do service"
- 2) They sought to serve God
- 3) Today people want God to serve them!
- 4) I Chron. 29:1 - ".....for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God"

B. "and fasted"

- 1) "fasted" = nesteuo = "to abstain from eating"
- 2) They fasted and prayed, we feast and play



C. The Holy Spirit directed them Vs. 2

- 1) "separate" = aphorizo = "to mark off with a boundary", (This indicates to set a limit)
- 2) These people were instructed by the Holy Spirit
- 3) Their work had already been set

D. They were cautious Vs. 3

- 1) "fasted and prayed"
- 2) laid their hands on them
- 3) They sent their own men out as missionaries - "A church does the churches work best." Supreme Court Judge of Norway

III. Their Sent-ones Did the Right Thing

A. They went Vs. 4

- 1) "departed" = katerchomai = "to come or go down"
- 2) "sailed" = apoleo = "to depart by ship"

B. They preached Vs. 5

- 1) "preached" = kataggeliao = "to bring word down upon anyone", "to bring it home to any one"

C. They challenged error Vs. 6-12

- 1) Bar-Jesus = Elymas = sorcer
- 2) Sergius Paulus = deputy of the country

D. God blessed their efforts

- 1) Vs. 12

