

Title: Finishing strong

Pastor: Heinrich Titus

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Time: 6:00pm



Purpose to pursue

Acts 13:1-3 ¹ Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work (ergon) to which I have called them." ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Purpose forsaken

Acts 13:4-5, 13 ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant. ¹³ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and *John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem*.



What was the purpose?

Acts 14:26-27 ²⁶ From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work (e[rgon]) they had now completed. ²⁷ When they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all the things God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.

A sad ending?

Acts 15:36-38 ³⁶Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and* see how they are doing.” ³⁷Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work (**e[rgon]**) ³⁹Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

What made him turn back?

2 Corinthians 11:26-28 ²⁶I have been on journeys many times, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from my own countrymen, in dangers from Gentiles, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers from false brothers... ²⁷in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—
²⁸besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Purpose and relationship restored

2 Timothy 4:9-10, 13 ⁹Get here as fast as you can. Demas, chasing fads, went off to Thessalonica and left me here. Crescens is in Galatia province, Titus in Dalmatia. ¹⁰Luke is the only one here with me. Bring Mark with you; he'll be my right-hand man since I'm sending Tychicus to Ephesus.
¹³Bring the winter coat I left in Troas with Carpus; also the books and parchment notebooks.

The deserter becomes the comforter

Colossians 4:10-11 ¹⁰Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him).¹¹...these are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.
See also Philemon 1:24

Stay rooted in the Body

1 Peter 5:13 ³³Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark.
Barnabas, Paul and Peter all disciplined Mark.

Stay rooted in Christ

Matthew 11:11, 28-30 ¹¹“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” ²⁸⁻³⁰“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Stay rooted in His presence

Exodus 33:12-14 ¹²Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ ¹³Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people. ¹⁴And He said, “My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest.”