



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 13 – 26 Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: The Truth

Sermon Title: “Refocusing Your Worship” (Acts 14:14-18)

Connection to Session 3

People are imperfect, sinful beings. We each need a saving, growing relationship with the one true God. People need to refocus their worship on Christ and Christ alone.

Introduction/Opening

“Swifties” they are called. Following Taylor Swift’s every move, her devoted fan following knows every lyric, every tour stop, and yes, even every football game she attends! There are some Swifties who fall all over themselves just to catch a glimpse of their hero when she travels from one place to another. Of course, while Swift is very talented, she’s not a divine being worthy of worship. Yet in many ways, there is almost a Taylor worship going on.

How often does this happen with pop culture stars of the past and present? Or how often can this happen with sports players? Or famous politicians? And, let’s be honest, how often can this type of man-centered worship happen within the church? This is the setting for Paul and Barnabas in this section of the Book of Acts. They have healed a man who was crippled from birth, and the crowds responded by trying to worship them. But the two men knew better, and the principles they shared can serve as a model for us even today.

Outline

- 1. Reject man-centeredness (Acts 14:14-15a)**
 - a. These types of praises are temporary.
 - i. Man-centered praise has a short shelf life.
 - ii. Man-centered praise is fickle, even selfish.
 - b. These types of praises amount to idolatry.
 - i. Placing anything in front of God is idolatry.
 1. Exodus 20:3
 2. Jeremiah 25:6
 - ii. Worship is reserved for a sovereign God.
 1. Isaiah 45:14
 2. Hebrews 11:16b
- 2. Redirect people to Jesus (Acts 14:15b-18)**
 - a. The best of men are men at best.
 - b. But Jesus is the ultimate God-man.
 - i. He created all things.
 - ii. He sustains His creation.

3. Realize that only a God-man can reunite God and man

- a. The gospel allows us to be with Him forever.
 - i. Romans 3:23; 6:23
 - ii. Romans 10:9-10,13
- b. The gospel causes us to worship Him forever.
 - i. Revelation 7:9

Conclusion

The heavens declare the glory of God. Don't be deceived; though people might do remarkable things, God is sovereign over all. He is the One who is worthy to be worshiped.

Dr. Fran Trascritti (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the Lead Pastor of Beacon Church, a revitalization work taking place in the West Side of Cincinnati, Ohio. He has almost thirty years of ministry experience in churches and denominational service. Fran and his wife, Teresa, live in Cincinnati, where they enjoy time with their kids and awesome thirteen grandkids.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.