

The gospel: unchained

The word that sets the captive free

Acts 16:16–40

Introduction

Acts 19:20 “So, mightily grew the word of God and prevailed”

Acts 13 ... “a saviour, Jesus ... this message of salvation ... good news ... God raised him from the dead

... he raised him from the dead no more to return to corruption ... God raised (him) up...
... let it be know to you that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from (sin).

Luke 24:45–49 “Thus it is written ... that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in (Jesus’) name
to all nations...”

God’s word of salvation mightily grows and prevails ... (through sovereign over-ruling; as God opens hearts, 1 by 1)...

1. ... through confusion and hostile opposition vs 16 - 24

v16–18 confusion

v19–21 hostile opposition

Don’t be naïve!

2. ... through supernatural intervention

Don’t be unbelieving!

3.....through resolute determination

Don’t be a soft touch!

Conclusion

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How will knowing these things about the mighty advance and triumph of God’s word of salvation help us as we engage in God’s commission to advance his work?
- Where have you seen such things happening?
- Are there any ways in which you think we might be either naïve, unbelieving, or ‘soft’?