

APPOINTED FOR ETERNAL LIFE (#1)

Request: “Could you explain what Paul meant by ‘appointed for eternal life’ in Acts 13:48? I have a friend who uses this verse to prove that some are elected to be saved and others aren’t.”

Once again, this gives us an opportunity to teach the importance of keeping verses in context with other Scriptures. UNDERSTANDING Acts 13:48 WILL REQUIRE MORE INVESTIGATION OF A LARGER CONTEXT THAN NORMAL BECAUSE IT IS IN A NARRATIVE (Acts 13:1-52).

We will break Acts 13:1-52 into three parts in order to understand the meaning of this one verse (Acts 13:48).

- **Part one** (Acts 13:1-13) Church of Antioch of Syria sent Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark on first evangelistic missionary trip to Asia Minor.
- **Part two** (Acts 13:14-42) Missionary evangelism team has a successful meeting with the members of the Jewish synagogue at Pisidian Antioch of Asia Minor. They are invited to preach again next Sabbath.
- **Part three** (Acts 13:42-52) The missionary team returns the next Sabbath by invitation to a hostile gathering of apostate, reversionistic Jews. They are opposed to the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of grace salvation (Acts 13:44-45).

It is during this hostile confrontation that Paul warns these apostate Jews of the consequences of rejecting their messianic Savior (Acts 13:46-52). Part three is the actual context of our verse (Acts 13:48).

**This lesson will study four aspects of Paul’s meaning of
APPOINTED FOR ETERNAL LIFE.**

1. It was during this hostile confrontation with apostate Jews that Paul declared that God would turn to the Gentiles to take the message of grace salvation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

(Acts.13:46-47). Opposition often comes with “open door” opportunities:
(Col.4:2-4; 1 Cor.16:9; Luke 11:52; 1 Thess.2:18).

- Paul declared the Jews “judged themselves unworthy of eternal life.” (Acts 13:46)
- Paul declared that God has placed the Jew “as a light for the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:47a)
- Paul declared that God had placed the Jew to “bring salvation to the end of the earth.” (Acts 13:47b; Matt.28:19-20)
- Paul declared that God had prophesied that when the Messiah came they were to take the grace message of salvation to the Gentiles. Paul quoted specific messianic Scriptures to prove this point (Isa.42:6; 49:6).

2. The Gentiles, like the Jews were appointed for eternal life by means of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. [Historical Christology].

The Greek word for **appointed** is translated (eimi / impf.a.ind) and (tasso / perf.p.ptc) in Acts 13:48.

- Perfect tense: Eternal life conference of eternity past (Eph.1:4; 2 Tim.1:9; 1 Pet.1:20-21)
- Passive voice: God’s grace (Eph.2:8-9)
- Participle: Doctrinal principle of eternal life of Christian theology (1 John 5:11-13)

This passage is teaching being appointed or ordained to eternal life and NOT appointed to believe as some interpret it to mean.

3. A person's grace salvation and eternal judgment are based on believing or rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed (pisteuo / a.a.ind / 3pl).” (Acts 13:48)

The apostate Jews that heard this same gospel of grace salvation rejected it “and since you repudiate (apotheo / p.m.ind. / 2pl) [to thrust away by choice] it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life.” (Acts 13:46)

Missionary report to church at Antioch of Syria: “And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.” (Acts 14:27)

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal.3:26-28)

4. Every person who believes the gospel of grace salvation of Jesus Christ is appointed, assigned or ordained to eternal life based on being in union with Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16; 3:16-18; 36 and 5:24)

“And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. My Father, who had given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:28-30)

“The Lord is not slow about His promises, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Pet.3:9)

“And the witness is this, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who **believe in the name of the Son of God,** in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13)

**JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED ETERNAL DEATH FOR ALL
SO THAT ALL COULD RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE AS A GRACE GIFT FROM GOD.**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Rom.6:23)**