

“Determined”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 8/7/2022

Series Title: “Acts – The Church Unleashed” Main Passage: **Acts 13:14-52**

Opened with a discussion about The Apostle’s **Paul** determination for his life to be all about Jesus.

- 1 Corinthians 2:2, “For I **determined** to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”

- Colin Powell, “*A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, **determination** and hard work.*”

Vince Lombardi, “*The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the **determination** that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.*”

Jesse Owens, “*We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of **determination**, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.*”

Dan Gable, “*Gold medals aren't really made of gold. They're made of sweat, **determination**, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts.*”

- Christians must be **determined** to live the life Jesus commands us to live. (deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him)

1) Jesus is the culmination of **history**.

- H. G. Wells, “*I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of **history**. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.*”

- In his first recorded sermon, the Apostle Paul walks the congregation through a **history** lesson on how God was with them throughout history and was always pointing to the coming of Jesus.

2) Jesus is the fulfillment of **prophecy**.

- After making it clear from history God was going to bring a Messiah/Christ, the Apostle Paul moved to proving the Christ was in fact **Jesus**.

- There are at minimum 30 to well over 100 prophecies (several repeated in different ways by different people at different times) that **Jesus** fulfilled proving He was in fact the promised Messiah/Christ.

3) Jesus is the justifier of **sinner**s.

- All Jews knew deep down no one could hold to all the **Law** of God perfectly. (ref: 1 Kings 8:46, Ps 51, Gal. 3:10, Job 9:2, Rom. 3:10-18)

- Jesus the Christ is the only One who can **justify** sinners before a holy and righteous God. (ref: Rom. 3:21-26)

- Acts 13:38-39, “*Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the **Law** of Moses.*”

In closing...

- Beware of the **warning** to those who do not believe. (ref: Acts 13:40-41)

- Mario Andretti, “*Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the **determination** and commitment to unrelenting pursuit of your goal that will enable you to attain the success you seek.*”