

understand it, and as we shall endeavour to shew, is something like following: "And when the Gentiles heard this, they spoke highly in favour of the word of the Lord, and as many as were disposed to have eternal life believed." There are three things which we wish the reader carefully to notice in our exposition of this verse.

Observe I. *What it was the Gentiles heard.*

"And when the Gentiles heard *this* they were glad." Heard what? We find an answer to this question in the 44th verse. "And the next day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitude they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said it was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." Now, "when the Gentiles, *heard this they were glad.*" Is it to be wondered at that they should feel glad when told that the Gospel of the grace of God was just as really for them as for the Jews? Such goodness, such grace, such wonderful love in God to them, was well fitted to fill their hearts with gratitude and gladness, and the same glorious gospel is for each of us, because God has manifested no respect of persons in the provision which he has made. Christ came to be a light to lighten the Gentiles as well as to be the glory of his people Israel. There is salvation in Christ for you, reader, whosoever you may be, and however great your guilt; for the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whatever Jesus did upon Calvary for the Jews, he did for the Gentiles. He died for all mankind; and surely when we see the love of God to each sinner of the human race thus gratuitously manifested, it is natural, and necessary that we should glorify the Lord for the word which he has given us. This is what the Gentiles did when Paul and Barnabas preached the word unto them, and this is what we should do when the gospel is preached to us.

There is a striking contrast between the conduct of the Jewish portion of the city and the Gentile portion. The Jews *rejected* the word of the Lord, and the Gentiles *received it*. The hearts of the Jews were filled with rage, and envy, and hate, whilst the hearts of many of the Gentiles were softened, and filled with