

“Who Persuaded The People”

I. Introduction:

A. A Greek word that is translated “persuaded” in the N.T. [πείθω] is defined as: “to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty): - agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) content, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield” (Strong’s # 3982).

1. The chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude to destroy Jesus rather than a murderer (**Mark 15:7**) named Barabbas (**Matthew 27:11-31**).
2. The same term is translated “trusted” in **Luke 18:9**, showing us that people can persuade themselves to be confident in something.

B. Being persuaded is not always something bad (**Acts 13:43**, **Acts 19:8**, **Romans 14:14**, and **II Corinthians 5:11**).

1. In fact, that same Greek term is also translated “believed” in **Acts 17:4** and **Acts 28:24**.
2. So, we do not want to conclude that being persuaded is always a bad thing (**II Timothy 1:12**).

II. Body: Our Lesson Is To Consider How A Multitude Can Be Persuaded To Do Evil (**Acts 14:19-23**).

A. The mob mentality (**Acts 13:49-50** and **Acts 19:21-41**).

1. Consider why Moses instructed Israel not to follow a multitude to do evil (**Exodus 23:2**).
2. Remember what happened when “the people” gathered together unto Aaron (**Exodus 32:1-6**).
3. Consider how we are warned against conforming and being influenced (**Proverbs 22:24-25**, **Romans 12:2**, and **I Corinthians 15:33-34**).
4. Not that it takes a multitude to persuade us to do evil (**Ecclesiastes 9:18** and **I Corinthians 5:1-6**).

B. The term we have discussed that is translated persuaded is also translated “obey” (**James 3:3** and **Hebrews 13:17**). Think about that!

1. Some people can be fully convinced to obey even idols over God (**Jeremiah 44:15-23**).
2. When Saul was a sinful man, he was able to cause some Christians to obey him over the Lord (**Acts 26:11**).

C. Being persuaded is also translated “confidence” (**Philippians 1:6** and **Philemon 1:21**).

1. Confidence is not always a good thing (**Psalms 118:8-9** and **Proverbs 25:19**)?
2. Some are confident, but altogether wrong (**Romans 2:17-29**).
3. We have to be careful in what we are persuaded (**Galatians 5:6-9**).

4. Think about how we could be persuaded, as others have in the past, to confidently err from the faith (**II Timothy 2:16-18**).

a. The fact is, some are very persuasive and we might be confident they are right (**Jude 1:16** and **II Peter 2:18-22**).

b. Some of us are easier targets than others (**Proverbs 14:15** and **Romans 16:17-18**).

D. In areas of liberty it was written to be, *“fully persuaded in his own mind”* (**Romans 14:5**).

1. What if one is fully persuaded, but errs by emboldening someone to defy their own conscience (**I Corinthians 8:1-13**)?

2. What if one chooses to confidently embrace an authorized liberty (i.e. **Luke 16:9**), but that decision ultimately leads to their own demise (**Proverbs 13:20**)?

3. Think ahead. Understand your way [path] (**Proverbs 14:8**).

III. Conclusion: No matter who attempts to persuade us otherwise, be unwavering in your obedience to the Lord (**Acts 4:15-20**)!