

and on Cyprus

Set Apart

- Gerard & Sarah analogy?
- First organised, planned, church sponsored missionary activity
 - as opposed to one prompted by persecution!
- Conscious setting apart of Barnabas & Saul, by the church
 - fasting - particular concentration on God and hearing from him, not magic!
 - placed hands on - sign of the setting apart, still today!
- Prophets & teachers - different, complementary gifts for the building up of the church

Light & Dark

- Heart & minds; Iraq; vengeance; rule of law; conflict of values...
- See here a clash between values, between an invader and defender, between light and dark
- Something attractive, interesting about the Christian faith:
 - proconsul was interested
- His magician was perhaps afraid of losing his position on influence?
 - sought to fight off this invasion!
 - opposed them
 - tried dirty tricks to turn the proconsul from the faith
- Ultimately there was confrontation:
 - Bar-Jesus (son of Jesus/Joshua) called son of devil!!
 - light of sun taken away from one who would have taken away the light of salvation (light of the world, Jesus) from the proconsul
- This is the conflict we are engaged in and choice we face
 - will we shine in darkness, oppose and confront the darkness, or be complicit with it by our inaction?
 - will we choose light or dark?