

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: To Judea/Samaria IX

Text: Acts 13:13-52

HI: Eternal life rests upon the work of Christ.

Title: *Two Sabbaths in the Synagogue*

Hook: The nucleus

Date: 5.21.23

Purpose: To herald the good news that salvation is a gift secured through work of Jesus.

FCF: The offer of salvation is newsworthy for every sinner. God's grace is seen in the gift of his son, available to those who believe it.

COR: When we hear the news of Jesus, we are confronted with a message we must receive or reject. There is no third way.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Paul's sermon in Antioch of Pisidia

Apologetic: The news of Jesus is a demanding message. It is either gloriously true, or laughably false. Every hearer is required to respond. Unwillingness to respond is to reject.

Form: Inductive (movements and homiletical idea)

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:8, 11

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Outline:

I. The gospel promises grace to those who receive it. (13-43)

A. The story of Israel reveals God's grace. (16-22)

B. The gift of Jesus fulfills God's promise. (23-37)

C. The offer of salvation demands a response. (38-41)

II. The gospel awakens joy in those who believe it. (44-52)

A. To reject Jesus spells eternal judgment. (44-46, 50-51)

B. To believe Jesus secures eternal life. (47-49, 52)

Main Idea:

Subject: What is the message that the Jews reject and the Gentiles rejoice at?

Complement: That salvation is available through the work of Jesus.

Exegetical Idea: The message that salvation is available through the work of Jesus was rejected by the Jews but rejoiced at by the Gentiles.

Theological Idea: The good news that demands a response is that salvation is available through the work of Christ.

Homiletical Idea: Eternal life rests upon the work of Christ.

Introduction:

Nucleus: the central and most important part of an object, movement, or group, forming the basis for its activity and growth.

READ Acts 13:13-43

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.

And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' ²³ Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was

written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

“ ‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.’

³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, ³⁵ no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’

³⁵ Therefore he says also in another psalm,

“ ‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷ but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. ³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

⁴¹ “ ‘Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;

for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’ ”

⁴² As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

I. The gospel promises grace to those who receive it. (13-43)

READ Acts 13:44-52

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke

out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

John Bunyan: “Sighs from Hell” “How many souls have blind priests been the means of destroying by their ignorance? Many of them, it is to be feared, have whole towns to answer for. Will it not grieve you to see your whole church come bellowing after you into hell? Crying out, ‘This we have to thank you for, you were afraid to tell us of our sins, lest we should not put meat fast enough into your mouth. O cursed wretch, who was not content, blind guide as you were, to fall into the ditch yourself, but you have also led us there with you.’”

RE-READ v. 47-48

II. The gospel awakens joy in those who believe it. (44-52)

Eph 1:4-6: ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Homiletical Idea: Eternal life rests upon the work of Christ.