

Part 1 Preachers attempt to move beyond mere historical or morality lessons to heart inspection.

Paul ask to speak... says: Look at what God has been doing over hundreds of years with his chosen people...

- 17 God chose our fathers. He made the people great and then led them out of Egypt .
- 18 God put up them in the wilderness - read Exodus.
- 19 He destroyed seven nations and gave them their land.
- 20 He gave them Judges until Samuel. 21 God gave them King Saul.
- 22 God raised up David - "a man after my heart who will do all my will".
- 23 God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Why is God providing a Savior? They have a great need.

Our principle sin: Other things (gods) receive the devotion of our hearts. Rather than "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength", we trust in and love things other than God.

Part 2 Preacher Paul proclaims the answer to our greatest need; it's forgiveness in Jesus.

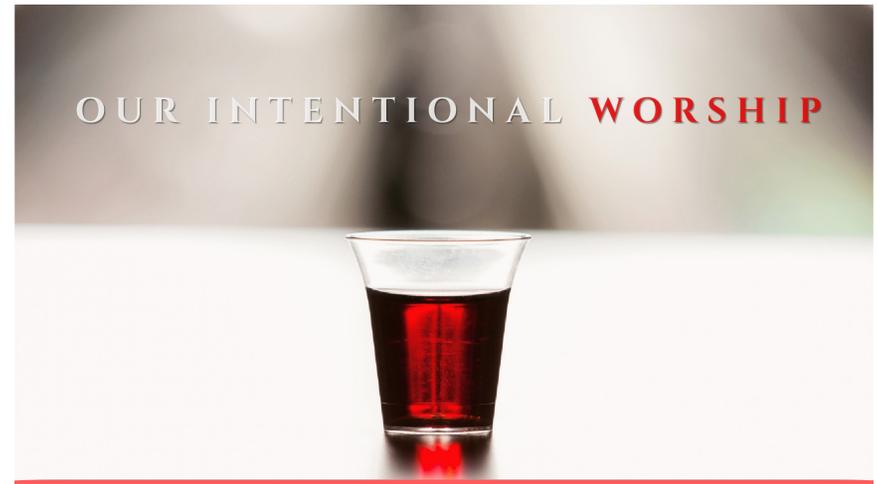
²⁶"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

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.

Part 3 Preachers are always looking for Fruit: The inner transformation accomplished by the Spirit.

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.



Acts 13:16-52

"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

Men of Israel and you who fear God: Paul, at Antioch in Pisidia [Turkey], in a synagogue on the Sabbath, has been asked to speak. He addresses both the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles who are there.

All this took about 450 years: Paul begins with a history of Israel's redemption but note that the strong emphasis of this history is that all these events were initiated and directed by God. The 400 years in Egypt followed by the 40 years of Exodus and then the 10 years of land conquest equal 450 years - all were superintended by God.

a man after my heart who will do my will: God's choice was to "raise up" David as King because David, as flawed as he was, had a heart that matched His own. David's offspring is Israel's promised Savior, Jesus.

John proclaimed: Paul also appeals to John the Baptist's authoritative words regarding Jesus. John said that he was unworthy to even untie the sandals of the One coming after him.

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. ²⁷For 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. ²⁸And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and 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. ³²And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³this 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.'

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

"I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

³⁵Therefore he says also in another psalm,

"You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

³⁶For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

³⁸Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be

Brothers... to us has been sent the

message of this salvation: This begins part two of Paul's message. He is about to tell them about what God has done through Jesus the Christ to save them. The story begins with what the Jerusalem rulers did (Note: Saul/Paul would have joined with them).

they did not recognize him nor understand... the prophets: Why did the rulers of Israel condemn Jesus and have Him executed? Paul says it is due to their inability to recognize that Jesus was the One of whom the prophets had spoken. These men fulfilled the prophecies of scripture by killing Jesus (Isa. 53).

But God raised him: Paul now returns to God's initiating work in the Christ. Paul declares: God raised Jesus from the dead and there are many witnesses alive to tell of it. Paul could have included himself as a witness, because Jesus appeared to him too (Acts 9:3-5).

we bring you the good news: Paul sees himself as a herald of good news - the gospel message is that Jesus was raised from the dead - he is God's Son (Psalm 2).

Let it be known to you: Paul now begins the third part of his message. He hopes to persuade them to believe.

through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you: The great issue according to scripture (and John the Baptist) is that human beings, even the chosen people of God, are sinful people who continued to be in need of salvation. Paul announces that forgiveness of sins is provided now through "this man", Jesus.

is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law: This is new information to those in the synagogue. Paul declares

freed by the law of Moses.

⁴⁰Beware, 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."

⁴²As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³And 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.

⁴⁴The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

⁴⁶And 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. ⁴⁷For 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."

⁴⁸And 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. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰But 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. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

that one cannot be freed from sin by the law of Moses. The word translated "freed" (dikaioo) is a favorite word of Paul's. It is usually translated: "to justify". It's a legal concept that tells us what happens when we believe - a person who believes is declared by the heavenly court to be acquitted. To "be justified" is the opposite of "being condemned" and so the translation "freed" means declared by God as no longer guilty of sin. Paul explains this fully in Roman 1-8. ⁴⁰**Beware:** Paul was once a disbeliever but became an Apostle of Jesus Christ when Jesus amazingly called him. Paul now warns other Jews to not reject the message and be a scoffer, because God is truly at work, bringing forgiveness of sin in Jesus.

the people begged: The initial reaction in the synagogue is very positive.

The next Sabbath: One week later the almost the whole town of Antioch (of Pisidia) has gathered to hear Paul's message. As he speaks Jews begin to contradict and revile Paul. Why were they so strongly negative? Luke writes that the Jews were filled with jealousy and that was the motive for their actions and disbelief.

Since you thrust it aside: Paul sees the angry Jews as disbelievers in the good news message of Jesus that he has proclaimed over the last week. In effect, he ironically says, "I guess you don't believe you need the eternal life Jesus brings".

bring salvation to the ends of the earth: Paul, quoting Isaiah 49:6, says that since these Jews reject the message, he will take it to the Gentiles. When the Gentiles in the crowd hear this, they rejoice and glorify the word of the Lord.

and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed: Yikes, another famous Pauline concept: Election, predestination, foreordained to belief. Scripture indicates that some believe because, like Paul experienced, God chose them (appointed) to be his own.