

- Introduction
 - First recorded sermon of the apostle Paul (my first sermon)
 1. He was about ten years old in the Lord
 2. He preached in the synagogue
 - His motto was "First to the Jew, then to the Gentile"
 1. He always preached to the Jewish community first
 2. He then preached to the Gentiles
 - Every synagogue had a format
 1. Began with prayer: *shama* (*heard*)
 2. Reading from the Law, the Torah
 3. Reading from the *haftarah*
 4. Rabbinical commentary on the text: *drasha* (*this was done by the Rabbi, or a visiting Rabbi*)
 - Paul and Barnabas were visiting so Paul takes the opportunity to share the Gospel
 - Paul's message was the rabbinical commentary
- **Acts 13:16** Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: **17** The God of this people [d]Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with [e]an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. **18** Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. **19** And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. **20** “After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. **21** And afterward they asked for a king; so 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 for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will.’ **23** From this man’s seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a [f] Savior—Jesus—
 - Paul began with a history of Israel, starting with Egypt and ending with Christ
 1. Natural transition
 2. Jesus was related to King David
 - The way Paul preached
 1. Anchored in Scripture
 - Later, Paul instructed Timothy to preach the Word 2
Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - He did not instruct him to preach his own opinion or what people want to hear
 2. Centered on promise
 - Paul showed how God delivered them

- He also showed how God kept His promise by sending Jesus
- In the Old Testament, God promised Israel would be a light to the Gentiles Isaiah 42:6; 49:6
 - One of the reasons God chose the Jews, delivered them, and brought them to the land of Israel was so they could take the knowledge of God and spread it to the world
 - They failed, regarding themselves as chosen and everyone else as not chosen
 - Because they failed, God sent His Son Jesus to be the Light of the World

24 after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. **25** And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not *He*. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

26 "Men *and* brethren, sons of the [g]family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the [h]word of this salvation has been sent. **27** For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *Him*. **28** And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. **29** Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb. **30** But God raised Him from the dead. **31** He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. **32** And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. **33** God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to [i]corruption, He has spoken thus:

'I will give you the sure [j]mercies of David.'

35 Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*:

'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

36 "For David, after he had served [k]his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and [l]saw corruption; **37** but He whom God raised up [m]saw no corruption.

- To preach the gospel is to preach glad tidings
 1. The gospel is good news
 2. When we share with people, we should share like it really is good news

38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; **39** and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

3. Paul stated that by believing in Jesus' death and resurrection, they could be justified in all the things in which the law of Moses could not justify them
 - This was earth-shattering to them
 - They loved and revered the Law, thinking it could save them
4. Paul developed this idea further in the books of Romans and Galatians
 - He was saying that the Law, though good, could not do what they thought it could do
 - The Law is good because it reveals that you are a sinner
Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law.
 - Like a mirror or a x-ray, it reveals it can't remedy it
 - It cannot cleanse you from your sin
 - Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: **41** 'Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.' "

- Paul referenced Habakkuk 1:5
 1. Habakkuk complained to God because the nation of Israel was sinful
 2. God told him that He would raise up the Babylonians to destroy the land and judge the people
 3. Paul based the entire book of Romans on what Habakkuk said to the people from God: "The just shall live by faith" Habakkuk 2:4
 4. Paul brings this up because he wants to tell the people to change or they will perish

42 [n]So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. **43** Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

- The Gentiles begged Paul to preach these words again
 1. They had never heard the gospel of grace before
 2. Systematic, rituals, legalism, living by the Law, and the costumes of the Elders
 3. They were God-fearing people who attended synagogue and had heard what they should and should not do, but this was their first encounter with the simplicity of **being saved by faith**
- **"In the grace of God"** v. 43, emphasis added
 1. Not the *law* of God John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 2. Most people cannot handle the pure gospel of grace

- They think it gives them license to do whatever they want
 - Or they think they still have to work for their salvation
- The gospel of grace does two things
 1. It reveals the utter helplessness of our condition
 2. It shows us the unlimited favor God is willing to bestow on us

- **Acts 13:44**

44 On the next Sabbath **almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.** **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Whenever God does a work, the Devil too does a work

3. When Nehemiah worked to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem, Sanballat and Tobiah worked against him
4. When you find the work of God, don't be surprised to find the work of the Devil also
5. Some people take opposition to mean that God is not in whatever they are doing
 - Pray about it
 - Learn to recognize what is satanic opposition and what is God leading you in another direction
 - The more effective you are in service, the more of a target you are

46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** For so the Lord has commanded us:

'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' " **48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.**

49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. **50** But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. **51** But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

- The Jews rejected Paul and Barnabas
 1. So Paul and Barnabas "shook off the dust from their feet" (v. 51)
 - Expression of breaking fellowship Luke 9:5
 - Since the Jews rejected the gospel, they took it to the Gentiles
 2. They went to Iconium
 - In the region of Galatia
 - Eighty miles away
- Paul's physical appearance
 1. *The Acts of Paul*

- Written in the second century by Onesiphorus
- “Small in size with meeting eyebrows, large nose, bald head, bowlegged, strongly built, and full of grace full of friendliness; for now he appeared like a man, and now he had the face of an angel.”

2. God looks at the heart 1 Samuel 16:7

- **They were filled with the Holy Spirit**

1. They were joyful though they had been persecuted
2. If you get persecuted, make sure you are getting persecuted for righteousness' sake
3. Don't be persecuted for being mean

EVEN WHEN PERSCUTED, WE CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH JOY