**Acts 13:14-43**

 **Justified by Faith**

Acts 13:14-43

“Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. **14**But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. **15**And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men *and* brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”

**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 Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with 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 Savior—Jesus— **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 family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the 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 corruption, He has spoken thus:

‘I will give you the sure 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 his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; **37**but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. **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. **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.’ ”

**42**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.”

**What Has Happened:**

\* Jesus met with His disciples after being with them for forty days AFTER his resurrection from the dead.

He said, “...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**\*** Then He ascended to heaven before their eyes

\* They waited in the upper room, and the Holy Spirit came upon them with a huge, jet-like sound and tongues of fire. They went out in the courtyard and begin proclaiming to the masses who were there for the Jewish feasts all the things they had seen Jesus do, and of his resurrection (in as many as 14 different languages). Peter gave a great sermon, and many believed and trusted in Christ, and were immediately baptized.

\* It’s a long and fascinating story, but from this point, the gospel (the Good News of what Jesus did for all humanity’s sake) was spread by the apostles and the early church deacons, just as Jesus said, first in and around Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and then to the rest of the populated earth.

\* Along the way, Saul, who took it upon himself to personally oversee heavy persecution of the Christ-following Jews (the early church), was dramatically converted to belief in Christ through a personal intervention by Jesus Himself.

\* Some fifteen years later, Paul (formerly referred to as Saul – his Hebrew name) and Barnabas have been sent out by the Holy Spirit from Antioch on a mission trip to Galatia.

Today we join Paul and Barnabas in another city named Antioch (show on map). As per his usual way of evangelizing, Paul begins in the Jewish synagogue.

Paul is still a bit of a celebrity speaker to the Jews. (Tell Why)

Paul then takes his audience to school.

Paul gives a very brief and pointed history of the Jews to this point.

Paul speaks of Jesus as the promised savior of Israel.

Paul speaks of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance.

Then Paul tells his audience of the sin Israel committed by rejecting and crucifying Jesus.

Paul recounts Jesus’ burial.

Paul proclaims Jesus’ factual resurrection and the witness to it.

Paul circles back around and tells how these things are fulfillment of prophecy.

Finally, Paul gets down to the nitty gritty. How are we saved from the guilt of rejecting God? – By belief in His sacrificial provision for us.

That’s it!

The Gentiles heard about this message, and many of them wanted to hear it on the next Sabbath. Meanwhile, many of the Jews followed Paul and Barnabas out, and ended up being persuaded of the truth, and they believed.

Now...

I’m pretty sure no one here is Jewish. This is a room full of Gentiles.

Paul’s pattern of presenting the Good News remains the same. Here’s how it goes. There is nothing more important in the whole world that I could talk about this morning!Let me take you down what is now referred to as “The Roman Road of Salvation. This is a trip through the book of Romans leading us along the path of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News!

1. First things first (first, the bad news) . Let me remind of your history and condition.

Romans 3:10-12 –

As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;
**11**There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.
**12**They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”

 Romans 3:23 –

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

2. Because God is completely holy and just, we all deserve death for our rebellion against Him.

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3. God has always known that we would rebel, so because of His love and compassion for us, He made a way for us to be declared righteous and blameless in His sight – The way is Jesus.

Romans 5:8 –

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

4. How exactly does this work? Is it by our effort that we are saved? No! It is a work of God.

Romans 10:9-13 –

“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11**For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” **12**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13**For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

5. Because of our belief (true belief, belief of the heart), we are no longer enemies of God.

Romans 8:1 –

*“There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

What does all this hinge upon? The miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ!

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 13-19 –

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4**and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5**and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6**After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7**After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. **8**Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.”

“...if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. **15**Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. **16**For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. **17**And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! **18**Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS?

Issue the Call...