

Series: Acts

Lesson: #47

Title: To You is the Word of this Salvation Sent

Scripture: Acts 13: 26-52

Date: 12-4-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

It was a day like hundreds of days before. Jew and Gentile came from far and near to the synagogue in Antioch, Pisidia. It was their Sabbath day. They were faithful to observe the Sabbath day each and every week. The services had been conducted as usual. One of the elders read from the law of Moses because they were faithful to walk according to all that Moses commanded. One of the elders read from the prophets because they were faithful to respect the prophets and their words and to try to live according to the words of the prophets. But on this particular day something was different. God's messenger was sent by God to their synagogue with God's word of salvation.

After this day if they went on rejecting Christ it would not be due to ignorance any longer, it would be due to willful rejection. (And so it is for all who have heard the word of salvation which declares that forgiveness with God is found no where else but through faith in Christ Jesus alone.) Paul was asked if he had any words. So he stood up. They took delight in reading the law and the prophets so this is what Paul proclaimed:

First, Paul spoke to them on that which they would agree, that the God of this people of Israel is the mighty God who always makes good on his promises.

- Paul declared God, who chose their fathers, made a promise to Abraham over 400 years before his offspring fell into captivity. God promised that they would fall into captivity and that he alone would deliver them, and God did just that--God fulfilled his promise.
- Paul declared God, who promised Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph that their brethren would receive the land he promised, made good on his promise, delivering 7 nations mightier than they into their hand and dividing their land to them by lot.
- Paul declared that God, who promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would be the King and Savior over his Israel forever, did not destroy the righteous with the wicked in the wilderness, but raised up a mediator and delivered each one he promised to deliver.
- He raised judges who continued to deliver them. And even after the majority rejected God as their king, he yet gave them the man after his own heart David who fulfilled God's will. Paul declares that God is not a man that he should lie, but that he always fulfills his promise.

You might hear the "Amen's" throughout the synagogue. You might see the heads nodding in agreement.

Then, Paul begins declaring that those promises which God made good on, pointed to this promise: Acts 13: 23: Of [David's] seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

- According to promise, according to scriptures, according to the word of Moses, this is the Seed of woman—perfectly holy and without sin—God with us—Immanuel.
- According to promise, according to scriptures, according to the word of Moses, this the Seed of Abraham—the Son promised, in whom God's covenant was made with father Abraham.
- According to promise, according to scriptures, according to the Psalmist David, this is the Seed of David—the King whose dominion is everlasting.

Acts 3:22: For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23: And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Paul says, likewise, according to promise, according to the prophets, God has fulfilled the scriptures and fulfilled his promise in sending forth the forerunner to announce the arrival of King Jesus.

Acts 13: 24: When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25: And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

Matthew 3:1: In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2: And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3: For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

- **Isaiah 40: 3: The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.**

Mark 1:2: As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

- **Malachi 3: 1: Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2: But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3: And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. 4: Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto**

the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. 5: And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. 6: For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Paul is methodically declaring that the salvation of the LORD is by his covenant promise, declared in the law and the prophets, and what God has promised he has brought to pass. Paul is declaring, you who read the law and the prophets, do you not hear of whom the law and the prophets give witness?

But Paul anticipates the question they might have in their minds: If this Jesus was rejected and crucified at Jerusalem, then he was rejected by the most preeminent, studious, leaders in religion. How then can you expect us to believe on this Jesus whom our religious leaders rejected? So Paul declares that even that which the most pious in Jerusalem performed toward Christ Jesus was according to God's promise, declared by God's messengers, throughout the law and the prophets.

Acts 13: 27: For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*. 28: And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

Luke 24: 25: Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself....

- **Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**
- **Isaiah 50:6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**
- **Isaiah 52: 14: As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:**
- **Isaiah 53:3: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5: But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**
- **Psalms 22: 7: All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, 8: He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. (Mt 27: 43—Matthew declares that is exactly the words the scoffers used)**
- **John 19: 28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst....30: When Jesus therefore had**

received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost...**

- **But even after** he gave up the ghost they came to break his bones so they could get him down and not break their observance of the Sabbath day but they did not break his bones for they saw he was dead already, but they pierced his side instead: **John 19: 36: For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. 37: And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.**

Then Paul knows that if they had questions about the actions of their rulers in Jerusalem and about departing from the old covenant, then surely they would have a question about the fact that Christ was crucified, and buried and laid in a sepulcher. So Paul declares to the folks in the synagogue, the promises of God do not stop on the cross, but they continue:

Acts 13: 29: And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre.

- Joseph of Aramethea, a wealthy man, a disciple of Christ, begged Pilot that he might have the body of Jesus.
- He took the body, and he along with Nicodemus, also wealthy man, prepared his body and laid him in a brand-new sepulcher, where never a man had laid.
- Even this was promised before by God in the scriptures: **Isaiah 53:9: And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.**

As God fulfilled this, his promise toward his Son, and toward Abraham, he fulfilled the promise to which all the law and the prophets give witness:

Acts 13: 30: But God raised him from the dead: 31: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. 32: And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

- That promise of God to Abraham to deliver his children out of bondage
- That promise of God to deliver each chosen child to the land promised them
- That promise of God to raise up a Savior and a King unto his chosen children

33: God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; (then Paul begins to quote how this was witnessed throughout the prophets) **as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 34: And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. 35: Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36: For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.**

Now Paul brings this home to those in the synagogue—and this is important for all who hear this gospel to realize

Acts 13: 26: Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent....38: Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Let's just go to the heart of what it is you and I need to be justified from—it is thinking ourselves our own king and our own savior—it is turning from God in the garden and thus making ourselves a god and breaking all law against our God and against our fellow man—this is the heart of what you and I need to be justified from.

Every morning, they had come on the Sabbath to the synagogue. They read the law and the prophets. Then some man took the stand and gave a discourse on what it means to be a child of God. The teaching was that acceptance with God or rejection by God was the result of man's own personal obedience toward God and toward their fellow man.

They were the focus of their gospel. The focus was on how they could make themselves acceptable before God. These were the things they searched for in the word of God. This is what the Lord Jesus meant when he said, **“Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, but they are they which testify of me and you will not come to me that ye might have life.”** But they were ignorant that the scriptures are concerning Christ the Savior of God's Israel. That in him believers are completely forgiven of sins, justified, sanctified, redeemed, atoned for, reconciled, complete, without blame and unblameable before him in love.

Up till now Paul said the same thing Peter said: **Acts 3: 17: And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers. 18: But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. 19: Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**

But now Paul says, **Men and brethren, to you is the word of this salvation sent...38: Be it known unto you therefore, (now you are without excuse), through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40: Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41: Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.**

Again, Paul quotes the prophets. The original prophecy by Habakkuk announced the destruction that would come upon the nation of Israel by the Chaldeans. The original prophecy was fulfilled. But it was as *applicable* to the Jews in the time of Paul, and is just as applicable to Clay Curtis and Scott Keller and all who hear my voice, as in the time of

Habakkuk. The *principle* of Habakkuk's prophecy is that if men held in contempt the doings of God, they would perish. The work which God was to do by means of the Chaldeans was so fearful, so unusual, and so remarkable, that they would not believe it was God's work though a man declared it to them.

The doings of God in giving his Son, Christ Jesus the only Savior of sinners, is so contrary to man's expectations--he being born of a virgin, appearing as a man, brought up by a carpenter, and salvation being accomplished not by man's power and strength but by his Spirit, and accomplished in full, received by faith alone apart from anything in man--is so much at variance with man's thoughts, that multitudes hear, yet disbelieve; though given the fullest proof, they despise it; they wonder at Christ's work, they are amazed and astonished to think on it, they are unable to refute it, yet they refuse to believe him. And they perish—those who hear the word of God's salvation and reject Christ are doubly-damned by God.

Like the accursed preachers of the false gospel in Galatia many today are taught in protestant synagogues all over the world—synagogues named after this denomination or that denomination, who hold to various confessions of faith, but all essentially declare the same thing--that Christ is All, but not quite all. They declare that there is something yet to be performed by the sinner after confessing Christ. There is yet something you must do in your flesh. When the apostle Paul wrote, “**Having begun in the Spirit are you now made perfect by the flesh?**”, he declared it is as foolish to think a man can justify himself as it is to say a man can sanctify himself and it is as foolish to think a man can sanctify himself as it is to think a man can justify himself.

The whole purpose of Satan and the synagogue of Satan are to keep men in ignorance to the liberty that is in Christ Jesus. It is not those who are being bewitched that I despise but those who have heard the gospel and yet teach the law. By pointing sinners to the law, and away from Christ, by telling them that according to their obedience to the law (or by making a work of acceptance out of the gospel ordinances or any other thing from the word of God which believers are privileged to perform and delight to do) these liars bind sinners with heavy burdens saying that reward or punishment by God is by something the believer does. This is the surest way to keep a sinner unsettled, ungodly, and full of filthy religious and immoral sin in every aspect of his life.

The whole purpose of the gospel is to settle God's people in Christ. Beholding Christ our complete and perfect holiness, our acceptance with God, the believer is settled in this life because he knows that God who spared not his own Son has justified him from all things from which he could not be justified or sanctified or redeemed by the law of Moses and by his own wisdom. God who delivered up his own Son will also provide every temporal need we have so we do not have to live by the sword of our own hand between our fellow man.

Also, the believer is settled concerning the life to come because as Christ is, so are we in this present evil world. He is risen never again to see death—the believer is likewise—eternal

life is not something we shall have it is something the believer has right now. Acceptance is not something we are striving for it is a present reality in Christ our Beloved.

These enemies of righteousness is why Christ sent forth the apostle Paul: **Acts 26: 17: Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18: To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.** So Paul declares to them, "Either believe on Christ, that he is the Perfection of Holiness in whom his people are the perfect fruits of His righteousness or you declare he is an utter failure."

Illustration: On one occasion the Pharisee's blasphemed the work of the Holy Spirit by saying that he cast out devils by Beelzebub. Here is what the Lord Jesus Christ declared and here is what the apostle Paul is declaring: **Matthew 12: 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29: Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. 30: He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. 31: Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32: And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come. 33: Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit. 34: O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35: A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36: But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37: For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

Acts 13: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40: Beware therefore,

Hebrews 6: 4: For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5: And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6: If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Hebrews 10: 26: For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27: But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28: He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden

under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith [Moses] was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The Lord Jesus Christ said to those who held to the law of Moses, John 5:45: Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. 46: For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47: But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

APPLICATION: What will you do now that this word of salvation has come unto you?

1. What about you personally? What about you who have sat for years, truly desiring to worship God, as did these Gentiles, and yet been taught the fear of God by the precept of men, been yoked with the law and because of your own ignorance to the truth, you thought this was truly the way to approach God?

Leviticus 4: 13: And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done *somewhat against* any of the commandments of the LORD *concerning things* which should not be done, and are guilty; 14: When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation. 15: And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD. 16: And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: 17: And the priest shall dip his finger *in some* of the blood, and sprinkle *it* seven times before the LORD, *even* before the vail. 18: And he shall put *some* of the blood upon the horns of the altar which *is* before the LORD, that *is* in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which *is at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 19: And he shall take all his fat from him, and burn *it* upon the altar. 20: And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them. 21: And he shall carry forth the bullock without the camp, and burn him as he burned the first bullock: *it is* a sin offering for the congregation.

Paul told Timothy in his first letter in 1: **13: Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. 14: And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. BUT ONCE THE WORD OF THIS SALVATION CAME TO PAUL listen to what Paul did: Philippians 3: 4: Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6: Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have**

suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Paul repented from his so-called righteousness's, works of sanctification and justification, counted it all the dung of his depraved ignorance, and once the word of this salvation came to him he believed on Christ—Paul said for this reason, “That I might know him.” If we have not renounced ourselves, our righteousness's, then we have not repented, or believed on Christ, we have not cleansed ourselves of that filthiness of the flesh and spirit, we have not perfected holiness in the fear of God because we have not come to Christ the believer’s All. To you is the word of this salvation sent...be it known unto you therefore

Acts 13: 38...that through this man—Christ Jesus the Son of God--is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40: Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41: Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

2. Generally speaking—whatever your response is, you will fulfill God’s will just as we have seen his promise fulfilled according to scriptures:

Some like those who crucified him at Calvary, will fulfill his will in crucifying him all over again by their willful rejection of him. (Paul had just said that it was written in the scriptures that some would not believe though it was declared unto them.)

Acts 13: 42: And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. 43: Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. 44: And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. 45: But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming....49: And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. 50: But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

But just as the angry mob at Calvary fulfilled the scriptures, and Christ was lifted up for the glory of God and the good of his people, so shall their rejection serve the will and purpose of God.

Acts 13: 46: Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47: For so

hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48: And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed....(and when the Lord was finished in Pisidia, he used the wrath of man to move Paul and Barnabas to his elect elsewhere) 51: But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. 52: And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. The word of God, God's promise, never returns to him void for all his promises, all his blessings, all his word, is yes and amen in Christ Jesus the Lord.