

THE WORD OF SALVATION

ACTS 13:26 • TV215A

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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.”

We are turning today to the book of **Acts Chapter 13:26**. I would like for you to listen very carefully to every word that I read in this text.

The title of this message is: “TO YOU IS THE WORD OF THIS SALVATION SENT.” Listen to each word of the text. Paul is speaking and he says; *“men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you that feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.”*

Paul and Barnabas preached the Gospel, first of all, to the Jews. We know that from Scripture that they went to the Jews, went to the Synagogue, and went to the temple preaching the Gospel to the seed of Abraham.

This is what the Scripture says. Our Lord said to His disciples; *“you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem first, in all Judea, in Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”*

Paul himself wrote in **Romans 1:16**; *“the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* In other words, when these men went out to preach, they preached the Gospel first of all to the Jew.

The Jewish leaders and the people blasphemed and refused the Gospel of Christ. If you will look down a little further in **Acts 13**, just a little bit farther along in **verse 45**, it describes their attitude and their reaction to this Gospel of Christ.

The Scripture says, *“The Jews spoke against the Gospel preached by Paul; they contradicted Paul and they blasphemed.”* The Gospel was preached to them first but they refused the Gospel, they contradicted Paul and they blasphemed his Gospel.

Therefore, Paul waxed bold and declared in **verse 36**, *“it was necessary that the Word of God should have been spoken first to you, (that is Abraham’s seed), to the Jew. But see that you put it from you, seeing that you are not interested, I turn to the Gentiles.”*

What a glorious day that was for you and what a glorious day that was for me that God’s choice servant, the apostle Paul, turns to us and says the same thing that he had said previously to these Jews. He says, *“To you is the word of this salvation sent.”*

There is a warning; there is a word of warning that goes along with it; Paul said; *“see that you not neglect and refuse this message.”* *“How should we escape if we neglect so great salvation which at first began to be spoken to us by our Lord and was confirmed by them that heard it,”* like the children of Abraham.

If we neglect this Gospel and refuse this Gospel we may someday find that this glorious Gospel may be taken away from us; *“take heed brethren.”*

Paul, all the way through the Book of Hebrews, gives this warning sound; *“take heed brethren lest there be in any of you, (like in these Jewish leaders) an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God: But exhort one another daily while it is called today lest you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”* But right now, to you, is the word of this salvation sent.

I have four or five things that I want to bring out in this message. I would like to pull my chair up and talk to you personally this morning. I want so much for you to listen carefully to this message. I want so much for you to hear it. I want so much for you to believe it and receive it and be saved by this glorious Gospel of God’s sovereign and free grace.

This is the title to you, that’s right, **“To You is This Word of Salvation Sent.”** I’m going to ask four questions:

First of all: What is this word of salvation?

Secondly: How is this word of salvation sent to you? How is this word of salvation personally sent to you?

Thirdly: In what position does this place you?

Fourthly: How will you treat it?

Let's look at these four things:

First of all: Paul says, "*To you is this word of salvation sent.*"

What is this word that he is talking about, this word of salvation? It is the testimony of God that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Saviour. That is the first thing about it, this word of salvation. Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Saviour.

John the Baptist pointed at Christ and said; "*behold the Lamb of God; this is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.*"

The angels that announced His birth to Joseph said; "*Mary will bring forth a son and thou shall call His name Jesus (for He is the promised Saviour). He shall save His people from their sins.*"

This is one of whom Isaiah wrote; "*behold the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son and thou shall call His name Immanuel,*" (which is being interpreted God with us).

When the angels appeared to the shepherds on the Judean hillside, they said; "*we bring you good news, glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. Unto you is born on this day in the city of David, a Saviour.*"

What I am saying is this; this word of salvation declares first of all, that Jesus of Nazareth who was born of Mary and lived on this earth, 33 ½ years died on a cross. He was buried and rose again and is the promised Messiah. He is the promised Saviour and He is the promised Christ.

The Father said that. If you will read the **5th Chapter of John**, our Lord begins exhortation this way; "*if I bear witness of myself, (if I am the only witness to my deity, the only witness to my office), then my witness is not true.*"

The Scripture says, "*Let every word be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.*" Christ said, "*If I am the only witness, that you have to my office, to my deity and to my commission, then you don't have to believe.*"

Christ said, "*The works that I do bear witness of me. John bore witness of me and the Father bore witness of me.*" The Father said, "*This is my beloved Son; hear ye Him.*"

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He says, *“The Scriptures that you hold in your hand, in which you search daily, they are they which testify of me and you will not come to me that you might have life.”*

Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is the Saviour and He is the Redeemer. John said, *“This is the record; God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. We know that the Son of God has come and given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true. This is the true God and this is eternal life.”*

Then, the apostle Paul said in **1 Timothy 1:15**; *“this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Jesus Christ is come into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.”*

First of all: What is this word of salvation?

The very first thing that it declares is this; Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. Jesus of Nazareth is the redeemer of His people. Jesus of Nazareth, of whom Simeon declared, *“Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.”*

Jesus of Nazareth is our Saviour. He is the announced one, the expected one, the anticipated one and He is the one who has come. Don't look for another.

Secondly: *“To you is this salvation sent.”* What is this word of salvation?

Jesus Christ is the Redeemer. Secondly, this word of salvation is the proclamation of a perfect redemption and a perfect salvation through His obedience and through His death. That is what this word of salvation is.

Turn to **Romans 5:19**; it says this, *“For by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners. Even so, by the obedience of one (which is Christ) shall many be made righteous.”* In Adam we die and in Christ we are made alive.

Paul said in **Galatians 4**; *“in the fullness of the time God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*

In **2nd Corinthians 5:21**, the Scripture says; *“He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* There is in Christ a perfect righteousness, a perfect redemption, a completed salvation. *“In Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are totally, complete in Him.”* Nothing else has to be added.

“Christ has paid it all
All the debt we owe,
Sin has left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.”

John said, *“The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.”*

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My friend, forgiveness and redemption is not by works, is not by law, and is not by human merit, it is by substitution and that by the substitutionary work of Christ. He died for our sin.

Peter wrote in **1 Peter 1:18**; *“we are not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold from our vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish or spot.”*

What is this word of salvation? Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah and He has completed all that the law requires, all that the justice of God demands, all that the sinner needs and all that heaven requires of all who live there. Christ fulfilled it all.

Thirdly: This word of salvation is the promise of forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe and to all who receive Him as Lord and Saviour.

“It is not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He hath saved us.” That becomes ours not by laboring, not by merit, not by works, but by faith.

Listen to the Scripture in **John 1:12**; *“As many as received him to them gave he the privilege, (the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”*

When our Lord gathered His disciples around Him before He ascended to the Father, said; *“you go into all the world and you preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned.”*

Paul wrote in **Romans 10:9**; *“if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Paul wrote in **Hebrews 7**; *“wherefore, He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by Him.”*

The song writer put it this way:

“Come ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus, ready, stands to save you
Full of pity, love and power.

Let not your conscience make you linger
Nor a fitness fondly dream
All the fitness that He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.”

What is this word of salvation? There are three things;

First of all: Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. He is the Christ and He is the redeemer.

“Other foundation can no man lay. There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.” He said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* He said, *“I am the door: By me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved.”*

Christ is the Messiah and He has completed the work of redemption. He said, *“The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* He left nothing undone. He left no sin that was to be atoned. He left no righteousness to be completed.

God does not require you to produce righteousness but to receive one. He does not require you to produce sanctification but to receive one. He does not require you to produce redemption but to receive one.

Christ finished the work. When He died on the cross, He cried out that it might be heard in heaven, earth, and hell, *“it is finished.”*

“This promise is to you and to your children and to as many as our Lord God shall call.”
“Whosoever believeth on the Son of God hath everlasting life.” Do you believe? That is the word of salvation and it is free. It is free to all that will believe.

Secondly: How is this Gospel, this word of salvation, sent to you? How is it sent to you?

My friend, very simply, it is sent to you in that Book that you hold in your hand right now, the Bible. That is the first way that it is sent to you.

That Book which you have in your hand, that Book which unfortunately is neglected by so many people, that Book which you have there on the coffee table or on the end table or there in your hand; that Book is not a Book of history only. It is not just a Book of Proverbs. It is not a Book to debate and argue; that Book is the Book of redemption. That Book is Christ. Christ is that Book.

If you will start in **Genesis Chapter 3 verse 15**, you can read about the seed of woman and go all the way through to the **Book of Revelation, Chapter 22**, when John says, *“even so, come Lord Jesus.”*

I am saying that every prophet and every apostle, every evangelist, and every writer gave witness to Christ. *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”*

Our Lord one day talked to those religious leaders who were so diligent to search the Scriptures, study the Scriptures, argue the Scriptures and translate the Scriptures. He said, *“You search the Scriptures.”*

You are busy, diligently searching the Scriptures, *“for in them, (in the Scriptures), you think that you have life but they are they which testify (bear witness) of me.”* The Scriptures speak of Christ.

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That is what the Scriptures are all about. This word of salvation is sent to you in the Bible, in the Word of God; *“faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”*

In the Old Testament you have Christ in promise, Christ in prophecy, Christ in picture, Christ in symbol, and Christ in type. In the New Testament you have Christ in person but Christ is the Bible. If you haven't found Christ upon every page of the Bible, you have read your Bible to no avail because the message of the Bible is Jesus Christ.

Second: Not only is that the way that the Gospel is sent to you but this word of salvation is sent to you in the Gospel that I am preaching to you right now.

That is what I am delivering to you is the word of salvation. This is not a Baptist message. This is not my message, this is God's Gospel. This is God's message. *“It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*

What do we preach? We preach Christ. That is what the apostle Paul said, *“God didn't send me to baptize. (He didn't send me to organize. He didn't send me to promote or to entertain); He sent me to preach the Gospel.”*

Even in Corinth, among the philosophers and educators and all of these arguers and debaters, Paul said, *“I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”* That is the way the Gospel is sent to you, by preaching.

Listen to **Romans 10**; this is so important; **Romans 10** declares that *“whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

That's right! How is this Gospel sent to you? It is sent to you in the Bible. I would have you read the Word of God. I commend you, as Paul said to the elders at Ephesus; *“I commend you to the Word of God.”*

I commend you to the Scriptures. I commend you to read the Scriptures. I beg of you to read the Scriptures. Listen to faithful men who preach the Scriptures.

Third: Notice; how is this Gospel sent to you, this word of salvation?

Paul said, *“To you it is sent.”* It is sent in the Bible. It is sent in the message that is preached to you and then it is sent in this way, in a special way, in the special providence and favor of God that brought you to this hour and led you to this time to tune into this program and hear this message.

My friends; I boldly declare unto you that today God is crossing your path. I'm not preaching a doctrine only. I am not preaching a denominational creed; I am preaching Christ.

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You are confronted today with the person of Jesus Christ. It is no accident that I am preaching this message. It is no accident that you have tuned in. It is an opportunity, privilege, and responsibility that God has given you.

It is a special mercy of God for you because many people have never heard this message, that Christ is the Messiah, that Christ through His obedience to the law has imputed to us a perfect righteousness.

Jesus Christ by His death on the cross has satisfied God's justice and honored God's justice and has given us a perfect redemption. Jesus Christ was buried as our scapegoat and rose as our justifier and ascended to the right hand of God where He is our only Mediator and Great High Priest.

You are commanded to kiss the Son lest He be angry. You are to crown the Son, to receive the Son, believe on the Son, to rest on the Son and find peace in the Son of God. That is a special mercy to you because many people haven't heard it. That's right!

Now, this word of salvation is sent in another way. It is sent in the Word, sent in the sermon, sent in a special, providential way, in which God has brought you to hear it today.

Maybe you tuned into this program, which you think is completely by accident. Maybe you didn't even intend to listen to this program. By God's providence you are hearing it and it is a special blessing.

Then this word is sent to you in the fact that this Gospel meets your need. You are a sinner and this is a sinner's Gospel.

My friend, a medicine that suits your disease was evidently intended for you. I am saying this, if salvation comes by merit you would be left out because you don't have any merit, by birth, by nature, by practice or by choice.

You don't have any merit and I don't either. If salvation could be earned by works, you and I would be left out because "*in the flesh dwelleth no good thing.*"

This word of salvation is for sinners, the chief of sinners, lost people. It is for sons of Adam, needy creatures, helpless creatures and hopeless creatures and it is free. It is free; "*come without money or price,*" it is free.

God says, "*Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow.*" He said again, "*Of God are you in Christ who is made unto you (all you need), wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*"

That is how this Gospel comes to you. It comes through the Word, and through a faithful preacher. Through the providence of God He is letting you hear it.

Then, my friend; the fact is Christ meets your need. You are a sinner; you need mercy; you need grace; you need God; you need forgiveness and you need pardon. There is no place to find it except in Christ.

God Almighty will not receive a sinner except in Christ. You have to have a suitable priest and a suitable sacrifice and sin offering. The holiness of God has got to be honored. The justice of God has got to be satisfied.

Now briefly; in what position does this place you?

There's a responsibility that comes with knowledge. Our Lord said to these towns, "*Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the Day of Judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.*"

My friend; by God's grace and good providence you have heard the Gospel of God's mercy. Now what position does that place you, in what position?

Well, it places you in the position of special favor. Kings and princes and great men have died without hearing this great news. That's so; listen to **1 Corinthians 2 verse 7, and 8:**

Paul said, "*We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery which God ordained before the world, which none of the leaders of this world knew for if they had known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" They didn't hear it. They didn't know it.

Our Lord said to the disciples "*blessed are your eyes for they see; blessed are your ears for they hear. Blessed are you to whom the Gospel has been preached.*" That's your favor, a special kindness on the part of God.

Many people have never heard this good news, never heard this glad tiding. Israel had a tabernacle, the Philistines didn't. The Egyptians didn't, the Amorites didn't, and the Jebusites didn't. Israel had a priest; they had atonement, and a mercy seat; the Philistines didn't.

You have heard the Gospel. There are many people out there this morning who have never heard it. It puts you in a position of hope too, because God saves men by hearing the Gospel; "*faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*"

Christ said; "*My sheep hear my voice,*" (the voice of my truth, the voice of My Gospel); *they follow me and I give them eternal life.*" "*Blessed is the man whom God chooseth and causeth to approach unto Him.*"

I will tell you something else; it puts you in a position of serious responsibility, for if you neglect to hear this Gospel, if you neglect to receive it, if you neglect to receive it and believe it, *“how shall you escape?”*

That is what Paul said; *“how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?”* How shall we escape? How do men neglect this?

Men neglect this by refusing to hear it or by confounding and confusing it with human wisdom or by turning to something that is less important. Some move away from where it is preached; some harden their hearts with pride and arrogance and a haughty spirit. They neglect it; they let it slip.

In what position does this place you? My friend; it places you in a position of special favor. God has spoken to you today. God Almighty has brought you a Gospel that effectually meets your need.

It is His Gospel. He gave it; He ordained it; He executed it; He applied it; He sustains it; He will perfect it and He is pleased with it. *“My Gospel”* is what He calls it. It is sent to you with many proofs and witnesses such as His Word, the Lord Himself, and His apostles. It is sent to you as a special favor and providence of God.

It is sent to you clearly and I will tell you it places you under great responsibility.

Fourthly: Will you hear it? This is my final question; how will you treat this good news? How will you treat this Gospel that I preach?”

First I ask you this; will you like the religious Jews of old contradict and blaspheme? They said, *“We have the law of Moses, we don’t need Christ. We have our heritage in Abraham; we do not need Christ. We don’t need the Son of God; we have these other things.”*

Second: Will you contradict and blaspheme or will you cry with the crowd, *“we won’t have this man reign over us; give us Barabbas; crucify Jesus Christ.”*

Or will you like Felix procrastinate or say, *“That is interesting. When I have a more opportune time, when I have more convenience of season I am going to take care of this matter.”* He never did hear Paul again.

Will you play the hypocrite? Many do and like Simon Magus, make a profession of faith, walk down the aisle, and be baptized while your heart is far from God and you are in the gulf of bitterness?

Will you cry with those who fell at His feet and said, *“My Lord and my God?”*

Will you be like the thief on the cross who said, *“Lord; remember me when you come into your Kingdom?”*

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Will you be like the apostle Paul who said, “*Lord; what will you have me to do?*”

Will you be like the Publican in the temple who cried, “*God; be merciful to me a sinner.*”

How will you respond? Respond you will because Paul says, “*For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?*”

May God give you the wisdom to lay hold on Christ!