

Acts 13:14-52 \ Conflict and Confidence – Part 2

4-28-24 @ RCBC

Two things to remember as we study:

1. *It was the Spirit who sent them to these difficult situations.*
2. *The truth of the Gospel makes the difficulty worth it.*

3 Conflicts in Acts 13:

- [v.6-11] – conflict with Elymas
- [v.13] – conflict with John Mark
- [v.44-52] – conflict with unbelieving Jews

The lies of the enemy, our own faltering hearts, and even a changing culture don't change truth.

The truth of Scripture is what Christians stand _____ and stand _____.

The message of Paul's first recorded sermon shook the entire city. [v.44]
His message was simple – it's well-known Jewish history, but it points to *Jesus*.

The fingerprints of Stephen and Peter on Paul's sermon:

- God is the promise-maker.
- God is the promise-keeper.
- *How will you respond?*

Paul's message divides the audience because he connects it to Jesus:

- *Jesus* is the salvation that has come through the lineage of Abraham in [v.26].
- *Jesus* is the fulfillment of the prophets in [v.27].
- *Jesus* is God's own Son [v.33] whom He raised from the dead [v.30].
- *Jesus* has been raised eternally incorruptible. [v.34, 35, 36, 37]

Paul's conclusion: _____ **and** _____ **are for everyone who believes.**

Jesus not only *take away* sin, but He *freely gives* perfect righteousness to ALL who believe.

"The law could not justify the guilty person. The law could corner him, convict him, condemn him, but it could never cancel his sin." - John Phillips

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Rom. 10:4)

Forgiveness & freedom don't come through the Law, they come through _____.

But there's a warning from Habakkuk - this message is bad news for those who reject it. When you hear this incredible work of grace – that God has made a way to love you without reservation by virtue of nothing that you have done but by what Christ has done for you – *that is a moment of crisis in your life*.

If you reject it and turn away, Paul says you find yourself in danger: danger of destroying yourself and of being destroyed because of sin, because *only God's love through Christ can forgive and free a person!*

- The joy of the Gentiles increased the fury of some of the Jews.

What are God's messengers to do in this conflict?

Who sent them to this difficult situation? → *the Holy Spirit*

Is the difficulty worth it? → [v.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."*

What made the Gentiles rejoice?

- When they heard that the risen Savior is for them...
- When they heard that God doesn't hate them, but instead actually gave His only Son...
- When they heard that forgiveness and freedom from sin were *for them*...
- When they heard that they could be adopted into God's family without physical circumcision and without ceremonialism...

As many as were appointed to eternal life believed. God is already at work drawing and preparing those present for hearing the Gospel message. It's God who leads sinners to repentance. If He didn't lead them in His kindness, none would repent.

- The wonder and beauty of the Gospel is that when the Spirit turns a sinner's heart to see their need for salvation through Jesus alone, God never even once turns that person away. They are welcomed in, transformed, and set free to live for Christ forever.

[v.26] *"to us has been sent the message of this salvation."*

- This Jesus, this Messiah is the only One who truly forgives and frees and He has been sent to *you*.

[v.33] – God fulfilled His promises by *raising Jesus*.

The resurrection is the culmination of the Good News that Jesus has done it _____ and that Jesus is _____!

Jesus has done it all *for you*!

Forgiveness is *for you*!

Freedom is *for you*!

Eternal life is *for you*!

All of this is in Jesus and is for *"everyone who believes"* [v.39]. → ***Do you believe?***

Additional Notes: _____