

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 4, 2015

God's Faithfulness in the Resurrection
Acts 13:26-37

Paul's message at Pisidian Antioch began with a summary of God's faithfulness throughout history to Israel before the coming of Christ to earth.

1. The Jerusalem Jews rejected Christ (13:26-29)
 - a. The Jerusalem Jews' rejection of the Scripture (13:26-27)

Those that Paul addressed at the Pisidian Antioch synagogue included those "who fear God," which is a term referring to Gentiles who believed in God but were not full proselytes to Judaism. This is repeated by Paul (13:16, 26) to emphasize the message is for the Gentiles also.

The word of salvation was sent out "to us," which is emphasized in the Greek text and highlights the role of Israel in salvation (cf. John 4:22).

The Jerusalem Jews did not recognize their Savior and did not respond to their Scripture. When we listen to the word of God each week and do not respond, we walk in the footsteps of the Jerusalem Jews.

- b. The Jerusalem Jews' rejection of the Savior (13:28-29)

In contrast to Peter's message in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 2:36), Paul did not blame his audience for the death of Christ. What is pointed out is (1) the Jerusalem Jews were culpable (2) Christ was cleared (3) the Scripture was correct.

When you read Paul's description of Christ's death, you find the emphasis is upon the genuine proof of His death rather than the gruesome process of His dying.

2. God raised Christ (13:30-37)
 - a. The testimony of the apostles' witness (13:30-31)

For "many days" (forty, according to Acts 1:3) Christ appeared to those who came with Him from Galilee, which like Pisidian Antioch was a Gentile land. The testimony of these eyewitnesses is compelling whether it is 15 or 2,000 years later.

- b. The testimony of God's word (13:32-37)

Even though the eyewitnesses to the resurrection were still alive, Paul gave greater significance to the Scripture, which taught the Messiah would not suffer decay. We have the Word that is more certain than personal testimony (cf. 2 Peter 1:16-21).

Jesus expected the people of Israel to understand the Scripture, including the resurrection, which was promised in the Old Testament (cf. Mark 12:18-27).

Paul provides three prophetic texts to prove Christ's resurrection:

1) Psalm 2:7 (Acts 13:33) -- "Begotten" has the meaning of "brought forth." Christ was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

2) Isaiah 55:3 (Acts 13:34) -- In order for Christ to receive the holy and sure blessings of David, He cannot be dead.

3) Psalm 16:10 (Acts 13:35) – Psalm 16 could not have been speaking of David because David died. Peter made the same argument from the same text when the Holy Spirit established the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:25-31).

The officials at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch asked for a message of exhortation (13:15), and they received a message of salvation. May we also take opportunities to give this message of Christ's death and resurrection.