

Acts # 58 “Persecution, Expulsion, Rejection and Joy” Acts 13:23-47

There never was a time during the history of mankind since his fall when the Gospel has not been preached; Genesis 3:15.

Man is always saved by a positive faith response to God’s revelation of Himself.

*There’s a very important biblical concept in this connection: God’s revelation is progressive, reaching its pinnacle with the completion of the New Testament.*

But God has always revealed His Son long before His Son went to the cross historically and the content

of revelation varies but the object of salvation never varies although He is revealed in many different ways.

The message of salvation is always sent to any individual who at the point of God-consciousness responds positively, regardless of geographical or language barriers.

The indicative mood here speaks of the reality of the fact that when people are positive at God-consciousness, God will provide Gospel information for them to decide for or against Jesus Christ.

As highly religious people, the Jewish leaders not only personally rejected Jesus Christ as Savior but they also wanted Him removed from the scene.

Even though they did everything to eliminate Messiah from the scene, God the Father has an overarching plan and His plan goes on in spite of the negative reaction of mankind.

*The plan of God calls for Jesus Christ to be glorified and to be glorified, He has to be seated at the right Hand of the Father and to be seated at the right Hand of the Father, He has to ascend and to ascend He has to be resurrected.*

So, the resurrection is a great demonstration of the principle that the plan of God goes on in spite of Satan, in spite of negative reaction on the part of man, in spite of religion, in spite of everything that would seek to neutralize the grace of God.

Jesus Christ as God has always existed but Jesus Christ as true humanity is brought on the scene in a point of time.

Jesus Christ always existed along with the Father.

*David’s life was a pattern of grace and he was given the Davidic covenant in which God promises David that he will have a Son who will reign forever.*

Biblical truth was what sustained David and what made him great.

God’s Word in his soul was the factor that overcame every failure on the part of David.

*What was available to David in his day was available in Paul’s day to the people of Antioch and is available today for anyone who will believe in Jesus Christ and have a continued*

*positive response toward His mind of biblical truth.*

**The will of God is the plan of God and this plan can only be understood by means of the Word of God.**

The more biblical truth we know, the more we understand the plan of God for our life and the more we understand the plan of God for our life, the more we can accomplish the will of God.

*Even though the physical body of David is in the grave, the plan of God for David continues right on.*

David is absent from the body and face to face present with the Lord and therefore David's life continues to be meaningful in Phase three.

There is no end to the plan of God, only a beginning, so this brief interval of life on earth is only a small part of the plan of God for us!

**There are two kinds of vindication in Scripture: Phase 1 Romans type vindication which is salvation vindication by grace through faith and Phase 2 vindication found in the book of James which is vindication by works or production of divine good.**

Phase 1 refers to vindication before God and Phase 2 refers to vindication before men. *Divine good can only be produced in the plan of God by the power and assets of God whereas human good is produced by the power of man to the glory of men.*

The only thing the Mosaic law could produce is human good.

By keeping the Mosaic law, the rich young ruler was only producing human good and human good does not vindicate man in the sight of God.

**Here before Paul were new believers desirous of the Word of God.**

During the entire week, not just that afternoon, they came together for Bible classes because the word "followed" is in the imperfect tense which means it was a continuous, habitual activity.

*And continuing in the grace of God indicates that as they received these basic doctrines during that week, they began to apply them.*

This is a way of saying that Paul continued to teach them biblical truth which they began to apply to their experience with the result that they began to live the Christian life effectively and quite powerfully.

**The response to grace in Antioch was so great that the mental attitude sin of envy or jealousy occurred in the minds of certain Jews who had not believed Paul's message.**

**Mental attitude sins rarely if ever stand alone and so these people were jealous and didn't leave it at that.**

***In other words, religion cannot tolerate the truth and cannot tolerate grace and the only protection against religion is Bible study and application and they refuse it.***

**Once a religious group starts to play the bully, immediately Paul's group faces an issue; Will they cave to this thing?**

**Will they compromise? Or will they stand up against it?**

**The greater the opposition, the greater must be the reserve that comes forth from biblical truth in the soul.**

**Religion cannot stand to see anyone happy unless the happiness is attributed to the religious and here are people from all over the city who are rejoicing.**

**They have inner happiness which comes from biblical truth in their souls, so they glorified the source of their joy!**

***After these new believers accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, their status remained the same forever.***

**This is the omniscience of God that knew which way our free-will was going to lean; He knew that we'd believe in Jesus Christ.**