

The Radical Work

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 13:13-52.

B. Paul transitioned into a position of leadership, and Mark may have well left the mission because he resented this.

II. Paul's message.

A. His message was based on similar content as Stephen's message.

B. The message focused on the history and deeds of God.

C. The timeless facts of the gospel: the death and resurrection of Christ.

1. The gospel was clear to Paul--it consisted of the deeds of Jesus. (I Corinthians 15)

2. The Jews did not recognize Jesus as Messiah because they did not pay attention to Him.

3. The Jews did not recognize Jesus also because they did not understand the Scriptures. The Scriptures clearly predicted Jesus' resurrection. (Psalm 16, 22)

D. Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed and freedom from the law is given.

1. God has found a way to accept man even though he cannot find a way to be good.

2. In the cross of Christ, God faithfully poured out His justice on Christ so that His love could be poured out upon us.

3. The result is full acceptance--justification before God.

4. If guilt is not relieved it will destroy you, and the gospel is the only way to relieve it.

E. The gospel hits with impact and people have to decide one way or the other.

F. God is active trying to find men--men merely respond to the activity of God.

G. The great sign of the Holy Spirit in a believer is the filling of the heart with love and joy.

Application questions:

1. What are the timeless facts of the gospel?

2. Why do you think the gospel is so controversial today?

3. Why is it important to remember that the reception of the gospel is dependent upon God's work in a person's heart? How should this impact the way we evangelize?
