

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — Sunday, September 29 **“As the Church...” (part 3)**

Welcome/Introduction

Part 1 - As the Church, we abide in the presence of God, not only here on Sunday, but everyday because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Part 2 - As the Church, we live through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who keeps us accountable, frees us, and teaches us what we ought to know.

Part 3 - As the Church, we proclaim the gospel/Good News of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading (Acts 13:16-41 ESV)

Acts 13:16-41 (ESV)

16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. **17** The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. **18** And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. **19** And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. **20** All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. **21** Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. **22** And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ **23** Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. **24** Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. **25** And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’ **26** “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. **27** For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. **28** And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. **29** And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. **30** But God raised him from the dead, **31** and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. **32** And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, **33** this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you.’ **34** And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ **35** Therefore he says also in another psalm, “‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’ **36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, **37** but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. **38** Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by him everyone who believes is freed from

everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. **40** Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: **41** “Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

Reflection (1-2 minutes)

As the Church, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Verses 16-22

- On Paul's first missionary journey, he travels to Antioch in Pisidia (modern day Turkey).
 - In the synagogue, after the reading of the Scriptures, Paul addresses those in attendance (Jewish leaders and some God-fearing Gentiles).
 - This gives reason why he shares the gospel in the particular way he did.
 - Believing these were regular attendees of the synagogue and heard the Word of God on a regular basis.
- Paul starts with a short telling of Israel's history from Egyptian captivity to the reign of King David.
 - All pointing to the redemption story of God's people.

Verse 23

23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

- Referring to Jesus as the “Savior”, the promised Messiah, he gets right to the point that these religious leaders did not agree with.
- Jesus comes from the line of David
 - **Isaiah 11:1**, “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.”
 - Matthew 1:1-17 (listed genealogy of Jesus)

Verses 24-25

- The ministry of John the Baptist
 - The powerful ministry of John declaring and preparing for the arrival of Jesus.
 - **Acts 19:2-5**, “And he [Paul in Ephesus] said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They said, ‘Into John's baptism.’ And Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

- John's ministry had a lasting affect on many people, but it needed clarification that he was not the promised Messiah.
 - Even though John himself proclaimed, "I am not the Christ." (John 1:20)

Verses 26-31

- Speaking to those 'familiar' with scripture, Paul continues to speak of the fact that everything that was done to Jesus, death and resurrection, was done to fulfill Scripture.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,"
 - "In accordance with the scriptures"...this is of paramount importance to us today!
 - All of scripture speaks to the revelation and redemption of Jesus Christ our Savior!
 - Those scriptures were *read every week*, and they did not understand.
 - Getting caught up in religious practice is detrimental to our understanding God's Word and the impact it has on our life.
 - "As witnesses" to Jesus' resurrection, Paul spoke of the power of God and the fulfillment of His redemption story.

Verses 32-37

32 And we bring you the **good news** that what God promised to the fathers, **33** this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus...

- The Good News!
 - Here Paul speaks to the resurrection of Jesus by using scripture and language familiar to those he's speaking to.
 - (vs. 33) **Psalms 2:7**, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."
 - Father-Son relationship, and Messianic title.
 - "Begotten" referring to one being born
 - (vs. 34) **Isaiah 55:3**, "...I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David."
 - Eternal covenant
 - (vs. 35) **Psalms 16:10**, "You will not let your Holy One see corruption."
 - "Corruption" = death
 - Jesus would not see death
 - Through the resurrection of Jesus, we are assured salvation and eternal life in which we will not see death.

Verses 38-39

38 ...through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

- Forgiveness of sins/Justification
 - **LAST WEEK:** the law can not save you!
 - Only through the blood of Jesus, who reigns forever!

Verses 40-41

- Rejection of this good news results in eternal death
 - **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
 - Rejection of the gospel usually brings hostility.
 - Acceptance of the gospel brings joy.
 - Verse 52, “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

As the Church, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

- **QUESTION:** What is the Gospel?
 - Gospel = good news of Jesus Christ
 - **Galatians 4:4-7**, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”
 - His life, ministry, death, and resurrection that forgives our sins and draws us to salvation, gives us life in His name, and allows us to become an eternal member of His family!
 - That’s Good News!!
 - But in order to truly understand the Good News, we have to understand the bad news as well.
 - **Mark 1:15**, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
 - **QUESTION:** What does it mean to repent? What are you repenting of or from??
 - For the unbeliever, it’s a changing of our mind, rejecting a sinful way of life, and accepting the will of God.
 - **Harry Ironside said this regarding repentance**, “Here is a man who is going on living in open, flagrant sin, and he does not care anything about

the things of God and is totally indifferent to the claims of righteousness. But laid hold of by the Spirit of God, that man suddenly comes face to face with his sins in the presence of God, and he turns right-about-face and comes to the God he has been spurning and to the Christ he has been rejecting and he confesses his sins and puts his trust in the Savior. All this is involved in repentance.”

- It is the revelation that you are living a life of sin, which leads to death, and eternal separation from God.
 - It is confessing those sins to the Lord, knowing your life, hope, and purpose is completely dependent on Him for salvation.
 - It is trusting in Him and His Word to live the life He wants for you and to do the things He wants you to do for His glory.
 - For the believer, repentance is a response to the hope we have in Jesus and a reflection of our love for him by repeatedly turning from sin, and continuing to pursue Him.
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- **QUESTION:** What do we do with the Gospel?
 - **Mark 16:15**, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
 - In the same manner as Paul proclaimed the gospel to those in Antioch, we tell others about Jesus and what He has done for us,
 - **Isaiah 61:1**, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”
 - We live out the gospel by responding to and meeting the needs of those around us who can not help themselves.
 - **The Gospel is...**
 - **True**
 - **John 14:6**, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - In the truth of Jesus, we see the lies that the world wants us to believe.
 - **Central**
 - **Romans 1:16-17 NLT**, “For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes...This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished

from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'"

- It is Christ-centric! We can't and don't change the gospel to fit our narrative. It's already been done.

- **Transformative**

- **Romans 12:2**, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."
- The gospel changes our life because of what Christ did for us.

- **The Gospel is NOT...**

- The gospel is NOT what God requires, but what He provides.
- The gospel is NOT demanding things you must do, but rather a declaration of what God has done.
- The gospel is NOT about our actions, but about what Jesus already achieved.
- The gospel is NOT a 'If-Then', quid-pro-quo agreement between you and God.
 - God, *if* you do this for me, *then* I will follow you.
 - *If* I do this or that for God, *then* I know He will love me more.
 - That's not how it works!
- The gospel is more of a 'Because-Therefore' situation...
- "**Because** we have been justified by faith in Christ, **therefore** we have peace with God. **Because** Christ died for us, **therefore** we are forgiven. **Because** Christ has fulfilled the law in our place, **therefore** we are set free from its demands and penalty. Instead of a conditional relationship based on merit, the gospel is an unconditional relationship based on grace." (Unknown; commentary on the gospel)

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Prayer/Response

Maybe you're here this morning, and you're now realizing that now is the time. You need to repent and accept the Good News, and begin a relationship with Jesus. He says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner. I know that my own pride and sin have kept me separated from you. I call out to you this morning, and surrender my life to you. Come in to my life this morning. I give myself to you completely. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen!

Tithe/Offering (Pastor Jason)

Closing Prayer

Worship (1 song)