

SERMON TITLE: **This Is The Way: To Everlasting Life**

TEXT: **Acts 13:13-39**

INTRODUCTION.

In this sermon, we will learn that there's a difference between good advice and good news. As we study Acts 13:13-39 we will come to understand that good advice tells you that you can save yourself, where as the GOOD NEWS of Jesus tells you that even though you cannot save yourself, Jesus has already done the work that saves you.

DISCUSSION.

Compare your life today with how you were 5 or 10 years ago. In what ways has the "good news" of Jesus affected you and your growth to be more like Jesus?

EXAMINATION.

Read Acts 13:13-39. It was nearly 350 miles by sea and land from Cyprus to Pisidian Antioch. What does their willingness to travel so far say about Paul and Barnabas? Why do you think John Mark (Acts 12:12 & 25; 13:5 & 13) left the group to return home?

What things does Paul attribute to God in verses 17-23? How do God's actions enumerated here prepare the way for Paul to speak about Jesus? How did God use Old Testament events to lay the foundations of His plan of salvation? How often do you look for gospel connections when you read or study the Old Testament? Is it a good idea or bad idea to read the Old Testament with that interpretative lens? Just as God through the Old Testament laid the foundations for Jesus' work, what foundations for the good news did God lay in your life? How did He choose & lead you?

The NIV renders 13:18 as "he endured their ways..." The ancient manuscripts that we have today are fairly evenly divided between the word used here, *etrophophorasev*, and a similarly spelled word, *etropophorasev* (notice the difference right after *etro*-). The second word means, "he nourished them" (literally: he carried them like a nurse). How might these two words convey the truth about how God "endures our ways" as he "nourishes us?" What conduct of yours has God endured? How have you shown repentance when you've recognized behavior that blocked God's nourishment while He endured your ways?

Compare verses 22-23 and 36-37 with Romans 1:3 and Acts 2:29-31. What is the connection being drawn here between David and Jesus? Why is this connection important?

The Resurrection is mentioned four times in verses 30-37. How does the Resurrection confirm the meaning of the previous quotes (vv. 33, 34, 35)? According to verses 38-39, what do you think is central for Paul concerning the Resurrection? If you were to emphasize one truth of the Gospel, what would it be? Why? Would it make a difference to your faith if Jesus had not been raised from the dead?

What do you think Paul means by being justified (13:38-39) (see also Romans 3:20-24 and 8:3-4)?

What did Paul warn the people against (13:40-41)? How did they respond (13:45, 50)? What did Paul do because of the Jews' response (13:46, 51)? The original sign of this gesture (shaking the dust from their feet) was that the community against which it was directed was doomed to destruction – a destruction so thorough that it even extended to that community's very dust. Therefore, even its dust had to be removed as one left the area.

How do you think Paul would respond to a modern day skeptic who feels that Jesus was just a noble, but misguided, martyr? What role would the Old Testament play in his answer? How much impact does the Old Testament have in our own understandings of the gospel? Would knowing the Old Testament, even memorizing it, help us to understand the gospel better and share our faith better?

What kind of opposition have you faced because of your faith? How do you usually respond to opposition? Does the opposition make you stronger? Is it tougher to face opposition from the community or from family members?

APPLICATION.

- What one thing will you do this week to demonstrate that you believe the “good news”? That is, in what way will you demonstrate to others that though you can't save yourself, you've totally surrendered to the rescue that Jesus has already given? How might your church or small group help you live fully into the “good news”?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?