

Our Missionary Message

Acts 13:13-52

*Transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas

PPT. (show pic) Christmas movies: It's a Wonderful Life (Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey)
What would my family, community, and the world be like if I had never been born?

What about our church? (what would the QC and the world be like without it?)

And what about THE Church? Christianity? (what would the world be like without it?) What if Jesus was never raised or the disciples never left Jerusalem and what if Paul never went on His missionary journeys...?

PPT. Review: Acts 13:1-12

(Pastor Dan showed that the church has indeed grown beyond Jerusalem to Antioch and now Paul and Barnabas have been sent out and commissioned by the church, ministering at Cyprus, where the miraculous blinding of Bar-Jesus and the conversion of the proconsul Sergius Paulus took place.

“Wherever we go, our job is to proclaim Jesus to everyone.”

-We may never know who God is already working on by His Spirit for us to share the Gospel to.

Main Point:

PPT. The gospel of Christ shows God keeps His covenant promises

PPT. Acts 13

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.”

-At this point John Mark leaves Paul and Barnabas behind. We do not know the real reason behind this, but this becomes a point of contention between the two of them later on.

PPT. *Show Map of Antioch in Pisidia (AD 44-46)

-Paul and Barnabas would often go first to the synagogue to minister to the Jews and those who feared God and then the Gentiles

*Prayer

PPT. *Chasity Holmquist read:

Acts 13:16-52

v. 16-41overview

-Paul gives a historical survey of the children of Israel and how Jesus ultimately came from the line of Judah which was a fulfillment of prophecy: it culminates in an appeal to the hearers not to repeat the error of the people of Jerusalem who had rejected Jesus.

-The general pattern is similar to that of the other speeches in the first part of Acts, especially that of Stephen.

-This right here shows the power of the Gospel as Paul (Saul) was one of those responsible for the death of Stephen (10 years or so earlier). He gave a full and rich historical speech and how it all pointed to Jesus in Acts 7

PPT. Connection point: history of the children of Israel

-This sermon shows God's faithfulness despite Israel's lack of faith (all the ups and downs)

-Begins with Egypt

-then wanderings

Leaders: Judges, Samuel (prophet), Saul

*David

PPT. ²² And when he had removed him (Saul), 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.**

-Paul uses a play on words here alluding to the raising of Jesus...v. 22

Main Point:

PPT. The gospel of Christ shows God keeps His covenant promises

-The Jewish people knew their history well and spoke of it often...

Peter likewise used David as a point of connection to point people to Jesus in Acts 2...

PPT. Do you know Christian history?

Skeptics today...the world is better off today without religion/it has done more harm than good. What would you say?

Referring to things like the Crusades, Spanish Inquisition, Salem Witch Trials, etc. (these things occurred in spite of Christianity not because of it says Tim Keller)

These things have no place in the kingdom of God that Jesus preached and lived (sacrificial love)

*So, what would the world look like without Christianity? What if Jesus was never raised...?

Or the disciples never left Jerusalem? Paul? Do you think the world would look different today?

Global Influence: Jesus, most well-known, Bible, most printed, Christianity, most people

Lifelong monogamous marriages, elevation of women, persecution throughout, caused its growth
Christian love (through epidemics/pandemics, hospitals, orphanages), Protestant Reformation
and the 5 solas, scientific advancements, ending of slavery in Europe, humanitarian aid, etc.

Tom Holland background

PPT. Quote:

Today, even as belief in God fades across the West, the countries that were once collectively known as Christendom continue to bear the stamp of the two-millennia-old revolution that Christianity represents. It is the principal reason why, by and large, most of us who live in post-Christian societies still take for granted that it is nobler to suffer than to inflict suffering. It is why we generally assume that every human life is of equal value. In my morals and ethics, I have learned to accept that I am not Greek or Roman at all, but thoroughly and proudly Christian.
-Tom Holland

“The West’s commitment to values of human dignity and equal rights didn’t spring from a vacuum. After extensive study, Holland concluded that they grew out of Christianity and that ‘most people are oblivious to the way in which the West’s Christian heritage has shaped modern education, healthcare, music, art, literature and the scientific revolution, to name but a few.’”

People today: My freedom! My rights! What about justice!?! (where do these come from?)

Even Friedrich Nietzsche, who famously said “God is dead,” admitted to this idea that secular humanism has hijacked Christian moral ideals and disconnected them from anything spiritual or transcendent

*Jonathan Haidt (atheist) believes that religion is a good thing and should be taught!

PPT. Morality, human dignity, human rights, freedom and religious liberty are all rooted in Christianity...

Not to mention...what Christianity has done spiritually speaking

vv. 26-32

The ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus of which John the Baptist prepared the way

PPT. 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,

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PPT. Psalm 2:7 (all 3 together)

‘You are my Son, (Jesus)
today I have begotten you.’

Isaiah 55:3

‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ (the beneficiaries of God’s promise if message is accepted)

Psalm 16:10

‘...You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’

David died and was buried, likewise Jesus died and was buried but HE rose again!

Climax:

PPT. 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.

*From point of connection (shared Jewish history) to

PPT. *Point of confrontation: Forgiveness of sins through Jesus not the law*

-What are they going to do with this information now?

Forgiveness of sins proclaimed (justification)

Freedom through Christ, not the law (v. 39)

Warning:

PPT. Habakkuk 1:5 (don’t let this happen to you)

‘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.’ (mic drop moment)

v. 42-47

overview

PPT. ⁴² As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

PPT. Isaiah 49:6

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

This is us!

- Prophecy of future Gentile believers
- Goes back to the blessing of Abraham (spiritual descendants)
- Tom Holland background

PPT. ⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Main Point:

PPT. The gospel of Christ shows God keeps His covenant promises

- God's sovereignty in salvation
- We are part of that promise

PPT. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

Why? Because those who had received the word were now sharing it. Not keeping it themselves

Reminds me of:

PPT. Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (when the Word spreads)

Going deep at Edgewood – different ways (word meaning, exegesis, contextualization, etc.)

PPT. “Sometimes going deep is simply putting into practice what we already know to be true.”

*To believe something is to act as if it is so.

- Living on mission
- Making disciples

PPT. Disciple: “A believer who lovingly follows Jesus and intentionally helps others to follow Him.”

*Future of ministry

- More than just personal growth but growth of character, commitment, community, and the commission

PPT. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

vv. 50-52 conclusion: Word spread, persecution took place, but they kept moving, joy in the Holy Spirit

- Good things happening, momentum, and then full stop...persecution and banishment

Q. Does this resonate with you? Maybe things were looking up, you were about to be promoted, open up a business, finish your senior year, go on a much-needed vacation, etc.
(Covid, the divide in our country, anger and hostility, 2020 in general)

PPT. Covid Positives: what have we gained this year?

Grateful for things taken for granted
More time with family while working from home
Perhaps less busy
More time for personal relationship with Jesus

(see [Amanda Hodge post](#))

Many shared pics of children born during the pandemic
Theme of God's provision in the midst of job loss
Likewise, early retirement for others
Much closer to neighbors now
Engagements, marriages
100% debt free
Time to get healthy
"Stopped living for myself and fell in love with Jesus again."

Q. What about for our church? Edgewood's momentum...

Shift of focus from church traditions to Biblical reasoning
Using technology to advance the kingdom
Micro ministry (small groups, discipleship, etc.)

Quote:

PPT. When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place. -CS Lewis

PPT. How has God been faithful to you this year?

*Write these things down: **Liesl's** blog on prayer and faith

-You see when we look at all of the things we have lost this year, we are bound to miss out on what God has been trying to teach us...

This year in light of

PPT. Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

-Perhaps God is doing something new...perhaps He is refining his church...And perhaps true worshipers are being revealed...(John 4:23 – But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.)

Perhaps God is planting seeds and pulling out the weeds...of our lives and in our churches.

Letters to the Church (Chan)

Season of pruning...

Quote:

PPT. “What if we followed God’s design for the Church and in doing so allowed the Church to be pruned down to only those who wanted to obey His command to “love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12)? We might actually find that a pruned tree would bear more fruit. We might discover that the branches that weren’t bearing fruit were actually sucking all of the life out of the tree.” -Francis Chan (Letters to the Church)

-Prayer (forced to) Mainspring

-Silence and Solitude (isolation and quarantine)

*Spiritual Disciplines that we would not otherwise have practiced...

-Fasting (Acts 13:3 – prayed and fasted on behalf of Paul and Barnabas)

PPT. “Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work.” -Henry Blackaby

For 2021-2022

-Living on mission (friends and neighbors)

-Intentional Discipleship (currently 15-20 young adults)

-Ministry Scholarship fund?

-Gap Year Program?

PPT. Application review:

1. Study and know Christian history
2. Recognize God’s faithfulness this year and write it down
3. Get back to the basics of spiritual disciplines
4. Go deep by living on mission and making disciples
5. Respond to the Gospel

Main Point:

PPT. The gospel of Christ shows God keeps His covenant promises

-God is continuing to write our story on the pages of history...will you recognize where God is working and join him in that work?

-What will future generations say about the faith of the Christians they knew or read about who lived in the 21st century. Will they say the world would have been better off without it? Or will they see that this year was a turning point toward repentance, unity, and sacrificial love.

Closing Prayer