

For us and For our Salvation - Acts 13:26-41
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

For us and for our salvation. Think about the glorious implications of this phrase from the Nicene Creed. God would have been just and holy had His response to our sin and desperation been to give us over to ourselves and then rightly judge us. But this is not the story. The reason we know about the Triune God, the eternally begotten Son, and the glory of the ever loving and glorious God is because He stepped into history and became a man, the man Jesus Christ. And the reason for this is “for us and for our salvation.” I really hope that you will think on and meditate over this phrase this week. Jesus left His home in glory and right place on the throne in the Kingdom of God, took on human flesh with all of its toils and pains, and then suffered death on the cross for us and for our salvation, or better stated, for me and for my salvation.

Our text this week is one of several sermons from the book of Acts. It is a glimpse of the preaching of the early church. Paul is on what is known as his first missionary journey traveling with Barnabas. They traveled through modern day Turkey, a region then known as Galatia, and they come to Antioch in Pisidia (different from the Antioch earlier in Acts). As was Paul’s custom he first visited the Synagogue and is given an opportunity to give a word of encouragement to the worshipping Jewish assembly. And of course, Paul uses this moment to preach the Gospel, the “good news about what God promised to the fathers (Acts 13:32).” This good news is the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus as the message of salvation. In other words, when Paul had the opportunity to stand in front of this crowd and preach, He told them about Jesus and explained that He came for us and for our salvation.

So far our examination of the creed as it relates to Jesus focused on the person of Jesus. We have looked at what it means that Jesus was “eternally begotten” as the fully divine Son, who for all eternity past, present, and future is fully God, light of light, true God of true God. Yet, the divine Son put on flesh and is also truly man, becoming all that man is. With the phrase that is the focus of the sermon this week, though, the focus turns from the person of Jesus Christ to His work. In doing so the authors of the Nicene Creed used 10 verbs to explain what it meant for Jesus to become human in a way that is redemptive for us. Let’s examine these 10 verbal phrases and briefly explain the meaning.

Came down from heaven - Jesus left glory to come to us.

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit by the Virgin Mary - Incarnate literally means in the flesh and speaks of Jesus’ humanity that came by a glorious birth.

And was made man - While shorthand, this is a reference to the 30+ year life of a real human who lived in history.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate - Jesus died on a cross. By mentioning Pilate (as our text does as well) it sets the story in real history.

He suffered - In humanity his pain and suffering was real, as was his death. He really died.

And was buried - When humans die, their body goes somewhere. Jesus was placed in a borrowed tomb.

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures - The grave could not hold Him. Just as he really died, Jesus walked out of the grave on Sunday. And this is all promised in the Old Testament.

And ascended into heaven - About 40 days after His resurrection, after multiple appearances to His followers, Jesus returned to heaven to take His rightful throne as King of all Kings.

And is seated at the right hand of the Father - He is seated because the work of salvation is finished, now He rules, but He is also interceding for His people.

And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead - Central to our belief in Jesus is the promise of His return, our resurrection, and His judgment of the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.

And all of this for us and for our salvation! Hallelujah, glory be to Christ!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 2	Psalm 3	Psalm 4	Psalm 5	Psalm 6	Psalm 7	Psalm 8

Reading from this past week's sermon: Acts 13:26-41

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 1:6-11

Family Worship

Song - *Living Hope*

<https://youtu.be/ifFovH-dhHw?si=B66BZp3EkyR1SwY->

Gospel Project

Unit: The Northern Kingdom

Story: The Northern Kingdom was Destroyed

Big Picture Question: Why do Christians continue to sin?

Answer: Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

Scripture: 2 Kings 17

New City Catechism

Question 44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Verse: Matthew 28:19

Acts 13:26-41

- What is the message of salvation Paul speaks of in verse 26?
- What exactly does the Nicene Creed communicate when it speaks as the work of Jesus being "for us and for our salvation?" Why is this a statement of great hope?
- When we refer to the work of Jesus for us, what exactly is this work? How does the Nicene Creed help us define the work of Christ?
- What is the warning Paul gives his hearers in verses 40-41. What is the outcome of rejecting the work of Jesus? How does what Paul says about the religious leaders in the sermon connect to this warning?

Prayer

*Praise God that Jesus came for us and for our salvation.

*Pray for our Wednesday evening Women's Bible Study.