



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

January 4-6, 2025
Epiphany of our Lord

Acts 13:46-49

Epiphany: The Gift of God is for All People.

Acts 13:46-49 - "Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region." (NIV 2011).

v.46 - Paul and Barnabas were the hot news in town when it came to Paul's sermon in the synagogue, "*through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the Law of Moses*" (vv.38-39). Now a week had passed and news had spread. They were going to speak again about Jesus, but when the Jews saw the crowds they were filled with zeal (and not good zeal). They spoke against Paul's message and blasphemed the Word of God he spoke, the Gospel. What were the Jews clearly trusting in when it came to their salvation?

Why would salvation for the Jews and Gentiles alike through Jesus alone make them mad?

Paul's outreach plan started in the local synagogue where people would know the Old Testament promises about the Messiah. He showed Jesus is the fulfillment and the Savior. Some would accept but many usually rejected him and kicked him out. He then showed the wonderful news that the Gospel message of forgiveness in Jesus is not just for Jews. It is also for Gentiles. Who are Gentiles?

Do Gentiles have to become Jews to be saved?

v.47 - This prophecy is from Isaiah 49:6 – "he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." This prophecy was about Jesus. Who was he coming to save?

Who was Paul sent to share this message with?

Who are you and I privileged and sent to share this message with?

v.48 – Why does the good news about Jesus make us rejoice and honor the word of the Lord?

Faith in Jesus is not the cause of our salvation, but God's gracious gift to us which he works through his Word and Sacraments. Faith takes hold of the forgiveness and eternal life Jesus won for all. What does it mean to you to know that God in his love has appointed you for eternal life?

When we doubt whether or not we have faith or if we are saved, where should we look?

v.49 – How does God's Word spread?

What are ways we can spread the good news and invite people to hear it?

As a congregation?

As an individual?

What is it about God's Word that makes us rejoice and honor it like the Gentiles did?

Name: _____