

# To You

**Acts 13:26**

**1**

**26** To us the message of this salvation has been sent. NASV

**Acts 13:26**

**26** To you is the word of this salvation sent. KJV

**2** These two translations might, at first, appear to be saying different things. They are not. They need to be understood in light of what the context of this passage is talking about. Paul has come to Pisidia of Antioch, and on the Sabbath has gone to the synagogue. When the synagogue official asks if anyone has anything to say, Paul stands up and begins to speak to those gathered there. Notice how he begins this verse...

**Acts 13:26**

**3**

**26** "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

He is talking to not only Jews but also to any gentile that had developed a faith in God and was trying to practice worship according to the Old Law. Paul obviously puts these into the same grouping because note what is said in...

**Acts 13:46**

**4**

**46** Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Verse 46 is pretty clear when it points out that Paul and Barnabas are addressing, primarily, those of Jewish lineage. That is the point when he says...

**5**

***"It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first"***

The Gospel was first sent to the Jew...

**Rom 1:16**

**6**

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

So when the NASV reads "Us" and the KJV reads "you," both are accurate in that the message was sent to the Jew which both Paul and Barnabus were. So the "us" in the NASV is generic meaning all Jews as is the "you" in the KJV meaning Jews. To the Jews was the message of salvation sent but they rejected the message; and that's why Paul said

**7**

***"Lo, we turn to the Gentiles"***

This provokes an interesting thought, if Paul were today, standing in this very pulpit, addressing us, might he use the very same words which he used in addressing those Jews of old...

**8** *"To you is the word of this salvation sent."*

This statement of fact is at the same time both a warning as well as a immense source of comfort and joy. Remember that the gospel was first sent to Israel to warn them of their adulterous relationship with God while at the same time showing them the way back into a righteous relationship with God. Jesus confined his personal ministry almost entirely within the bounds of Palestine, and he told his disciples to begin the preaching of the gospel...

*Matt 10:5-7* **9**

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

The Jews had every opportunity to accept the Gospel and be saved.

**10** *"To them it had been given"*

But they were blinded by prejudice and sin, and could not see Christ. Unknowingly they judged themselves to be unworthy of eternal life, so, as instructed by the Lord, Paul and the rest of the Apostles turned to the Gentiles. Therein is a warning my friends, we now have the opportunity to hear the gospel, and remember, if any are privileged to have the gospel sent to them, and yet continue to reject it, God may turn from them as readily as he turned from the Jews.

The following is a quote from Charles Spurgeon, an old time Baptist preacher in England in the late 1800's that I find to be very revealing and interesting...

**11** *"If, in this country, men and women continue to go after the idolatrous calves of Ritualism, or turn aside to the modern Sadduceeism of scepticism, it may be that the Lord will remove the candlestick out of its place, and that the word of the gospel will be no longer sent to us."*

I might include the perversion of the modern Pharisee who adds to or takes away from the truth of God as he sees fit. Spurgeon is saying that as God first sent the Word to the Jews and it was rejected and then sent it to the Gentile will He stop sending it to any nation that continues to reject it? I think the problem with Spurgeon's statement is that he is viewing the Gospel as a national religion relationship as opposed to an individual relationship. With the Jews, their religion was a national religion, that is no longer the case with the Gospel. As long as there is one individual that is seeking, knocking, and asking God will provide for them the way to come to Him through Jesus Christ.

There are some questions that I think are raised that I would like to discuss from our text passage today...

**12** 1) What is this message of Salvation that has been sent to us

- 2) How is this message sent
- 3) What is the result of this message coming to man

So then this question...

- 13** 1) What is this message of Salvation that has been sent to us

Peter's sermon in Acts 2 is one of those passages that everyone seems to be familiar with. It is a classic example of how to build a speech. It is often used as an instructional tool to show students the process of building a logical argument. Peter begins by addressing those within earshot from the many different areas that were represented that day in Jerusalem. He catches their attention by talking something that had caught their attention, assuring that they would now be paying attention to him. He then moves from that by using the prophecies of scripture that they knew and showed them how that Jesus fulfilled those prophecies. Now let's look at this passage here in Acts 13...

*Acts 13:26-41*

**READ**

**26** "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. **27** For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. **28** And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. **29** When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. **30** But God raised Him from the dead; **31** and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. **32** And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, **33** that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' **34** As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.' **35** Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' **36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; **37** but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. **38** Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. **40** Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you: **41** 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'"

Maybe it's because I am looking for it, but the similarities that I see here in this passage with Peter's sermon in Acts 2 verge on identical. There is a reason for that. Both Peter and Paul are talking about Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Of course the arguments are going to be

the same because the topics of their discussions are the same. What is the message of salvation that has been sent to us? It is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is Christ and all that is included with Him.

His life, death, resurrection, the comforter He sent to His Apostles, all these add up to how man responds to Him. That's what Philip was telling the Eunuch when he asked about being baptized, "Do you believe?" I mean really believe, not just a superficial yeah OK, Jesus was real, but a complete and total faith that Jesus is the Son of God, that Jesus is the salvation of the message that has been given to you, to us.

**John 3:36** 14

**36** He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

15 2) How is this message sent

This is one of those areas that if I thought anyone would listen while I stood on a street corner or on the highest building in Oakdale and shouted at the top of my lungs, I would. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the only source of salvation for the world. Unfortunately, the world has become so jaded that people won't listen to that manner of message anymore. But God has sent the message to man. God has sent the message to you, to me, in Christ's universal commission that he gave to his disciples...

**Mark 16:15-16** 16

**15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Paul tells Timothy...

**1 Tim 1:15** 17

**15** It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,

So the only conclusion to this statement is that the only one Christ didn't come to save is the one who isn't a sinner. I am a sinner, are you? If, like me your answer is yes I am, than Christ came to save us. That is the message of salvation sent through and by Jesus Christ and He, God, invites all to come to them for salvation. I don't think it coincidental that one of the very last verses in our New Testament found in...

**Rev 22:17** 18

**17** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

This is the real crux of the scriptures and of why Christ came. He came to save the world. He came to save us. That is the message of salvation in Christ that the Gospel tells us about. That is the warning and the joy. We are lost without salvation, but we can be saved in Christ. The wrath and the glory of God manifested in Christ Jesus.

The message is found in Christ and His Gospel and was sent by God in and through Him. This now brings us to the real point of this lesson, if you will.

**19** 3) What is the result of this message coming to man

This thought requires a certain understanding on our part, on the part of any who hear the message and as I'll try to illustrate, actually for all the world. The understanding is this; sometimes things, events, circumstances occur that demand a response from us. There is no choice or option. Even inactivity becomes a response. Have you ever been sitting in a restaurant where there is a small child that is acting up. You sit there and wait for the parent to take care of the problem but the parent doesn't. Whether the parent is even aware of the issue or not, some parents develop the ability to ignore their children, the fact that they have chosen to ignore it is in and of itself a choice, a response. The message has been sent. It was revealed in Christ Jesus. Whether or not someone is aware of that fact or not isn't relevant, they will be held responsible for their response to it. Paul speaks of the warning and the promise of joy in...

*Rom 2:5-8*

**20**

**5** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: **7** to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; **8** but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

The response we give to God is seen in the things we do, the things we say. The lives we live are our choice whether we recognize them as such or not. The message of salvation that is Christ Jesus demands that we make a choice in our lives of living for Him. When we choose not to, and it is a choice, we, by default choose to live in disobedience, denying the Christ of Acts 2 and Acts 13. That is the warning. God will render to each of us according to the deeds of our lives. If those deeds are selfishly ambitious, devoid of truth, unrighteous then God will render wrath and indignation, eternal death, but if the deeds of our lives are faithful, obedient, righteous, then God will render glory, honor, eternal life. The warning and the joy. That is the response that the sending of the message demands. Do we accept it or do we reject it.

Acceptance will be seen in our faithful obedience to the message, the whole message, neither adding to it nor taking away from it. There is a principle illustrated in Rev. 22 that while in context is talking about John's prophecy there is applicable to the whole of God's...

*Rev 22:18-19*

**21**

**18** I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Denial will also be seen in the deeds of our lives, disobedience, adding to or taking away from the message, whether that response be intentional or not.