

Theme: The servants of Christ expect opposition to the presentation of the gospel. But those appointed to life will surely believe for God executes and orchestrates his perfect plan to bring them forgiveness of sins and eternal life through the risen savior.

Introduction and Background: Two very different pictures -

1. Joyful, enthusiastic reception of the Good News
2. Rejection of the Good News by the Jews

I. The Way is Prepared – God’s Work of Providence

Antioch in Pisidia – distinguished from Antioch

- A. “Synagogues of the Jews” everywhere they go
- B. A brief history of Israel
 1. A chosen people blessed, preserved & protected
 2. A Faithful King (David) from whom would come a faithful heir v.22
- C. David’s Greater Son - The promised Son and heir
- D. Risen from the Dead!
 1. The *heart* of the message.
 2. The testimony
 - His witnesses
 - The Word (Is.55:3; Ps.16:10)

II. The Promise is Fulfilled – God’s Gift of Mercy

- A. Forgiveness of Sins! v.38!
 1. Through this man!
 2. No way to pay this debt Romans 3:23; 6:23
(cf. Hebrews 9:22; 10:4; Micah 6:6,7)
- B. What “The Law” couldn’t do?! v.39
 1. Justified!!
 - a. The greatest concern of sinners? (WSC 33)
 - b. We can never be fully justified by the law. Romans 3:20

2. Free from Condemnation??

- The law *points out* our sin. Romans 8:3; 9:30; 1:17

3. Free from the guilt of sin

- No scapegoat needed year after year

- Guilt taken away at the cross. Jeremiah 33:8

4. Freed from death! Galatians 3:21; John 10:27

III. Reviled by Many – God’s Sovereign Justice (Getting what we deserve)

A. Motivation? Jealousy

B. Methodology?

- Contradiction and slander

C. Result?

1. For the Jews:

- Judged *yourselves* unworthy of eternal life. v. 46

2. For the Gentiles:

- Offer goes to them!

IV. Received by Many – God’s Sovereign Grace at Work

A. Salvation isn’t just for the Jews – but for all who believe!

B. God Appoints all those who receive eternal life. v.48b John 6:44; Rom. 6:23

C. Justice is Satisfied. Jesus receives the just punishment for sins. 1 Peter 2:24;
1 Thessalonians 1:9

D. Humility and Joy! Are the fruit. vv.48 &52

V. Conclusion/Application:

1. God is *always* at work.

2. Salvation is of the Lord.

3. Share with a measure of boldness.

- Don’t want to be like the Jews – who forgot that they were to be a light to the nations.