

# Paul's First Recorded Sermon

Acts 13:14-41

PART THREE

## Introduction

- I. The Foundation of History – vv14-22
- II. The Fulfillment of Prophecy – vv23-37
- III. The Forgiveness & Freedom of Divinity – vv38-41

## III. The Freedom and Forgiveness of Divinity – vv38-41

Verse 38-39 is a concise doctrine of *justification*.

**The Inescapable Plight:** “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

**The Insurmountable Problem:** Man, guilty sinner, cannot by his own efforts make himself right with God.

Job 25:4; NASU

Job 4:17

Psalms 143:2

**The Jew thought he could make himself right with God by keeping the law of Moses. Impossible.**

Romans 3:19-20

**No righteous act offered by the ‘unclean’ hand of man can ever make anything ‘clean’:** Haggai 2:11-14

Hosea 6:6

Matthew 9:13

Titus 1:15-16

**But the Jew knew that with God there is forgiveness**

Psalms 130:3-4

Psalms 86:5

## The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-23

Jesus crushes the assumptions of the rich young ruler who assumed that Christianity was something he could *gain* by something he could *do*.

Matthew 19:24-26

**The Jews had a deep fear of God.**

They suffered great guilt and deep conviction when they did sin because they were a people commanded by God to live moral, ethical lives according to the law of Moses.

“the Lord said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.’” Exodus 32:33

The distinction between *servile* fear vs *filial* fear

**God had made His hatred of sin graphically clear to the Jews:** Leviticus 26:14-22

2 Samuel 24:10-11

Ezra 9:3-7, 15

Nehemiah 1:5-8

**Jews had a deep awareness of and hypersensitivity to their sin:** Psalm 38:3-10; 51:1-4

**The Jew was also very aware of God’s mercy and promise to forgive those who confess and repent:**

Isaiah 55:6-7

Micah 7:18-19

**God promises forgiveness, but He will not overlook the guilty:**

Exodus 34:6-7

Leviticus 5:5-6

Hence, the endless bloodletting of animal sacrifice in the temple. This is how they understood forgiveness.

**The Jew would be required to repeat these animal sacrifices over-and-over again every time he sinned.**

Hebrews 10:1-4

Hebrews 9:9-10

“regulations for the body” not the *heart*; “imposed until the time of reformation” the advent of Christ.

Hebrews 9:11-14

Hebrews 10:12

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” Hebrews 10:14

**v38 - v39**

**The righteousness of God through *faith* in Jesus Christ alone**

Romans 3:21-24

Galatians 3:10-11

Galatians 2:16

**Peace with God through *faith* in Jesus Christ alone**

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” Romans 3:28

Romans 1:16-17

**v40 - v41**

John 11:25-26 confronts all of us. How will you answer?

Your eternal destiny depends on your response to this one question.