

Do You Judge Yourself Worthy of Eternal Life? (Acts 13:46)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- Do you judge yourself worthy of eternal life? (y/n)
 - worthy to: be with God forever, be with Jesus and the saints, live in heaven forever
- How do you know you are worthy of eternal life?
- If you want to go to heaven, how do you know you are succeeding?

➤ Overview Paul's Preaching at Pisidian Antioch

- Acts 13:14 Paul preached in Pisidian Antioch, 1st missionary journey
- - map: Pisidian Antioch vs. Syrian Antioch
- - Acts 13:16-43 Paul preached, many Jews and god-fearing proselytes followed Paul, who spoke to them urging them to continue in the grace of God
- - Acts 13:44-46 next Sabbath, whole city assembled to hear Paul preach, Jews jealous, contradicted things preached and blasphemed – judged themselves unworthy of eternal life
- How did the Jews do to judge themselves unworthy of eternal life?
 - Acts 13:45-46, 50 by their words and conduct they passed *sentence* on themselves, decided they were unworthy of the grace of the Gospel – unworthy = unfit to be saved
 - - repudiate (push away): means to repel, thrust away, reject, refuse, reject as authority
 - irony: although they literally thought they were saved because they were Jews – the ones who thought they were saved, had actually judged themselves unworthy of eternal life
- present-day examples:
 - illus.: allowance – parent tells child, keep your room clean all week and you will get your allowance, end of week parent tells child can't have allowance because not keep room clean – judged himself unworthy
 - child's choice: if make choice that results in no allowance, judge self not worthy of allowance, rejected allowance by being disobedient
 - illus.: boy in high school band, confessed he was going to hell, said he'd be so busy shaking hands with his friends it wouldn't be too bad – judged himself unworthy of eternal life
 - boy's choice: rejected heaven and embraced hell
- - application:
 - 2 Cor. 13:5-6 we must test ourselves – if in sin, judge selves unworthy of eternal life
 - - 2 Cor. 2:9 test with the gospel (word), whether obedient in all things – obedient = worthy
 - - 1 Pet. 4:12; Ja. 1:2-3 also tested by trials – faithful in adversity – worthy
 - - illus.: Rev. 2:10 Roman persecution – describe the testing
- summary:
 - God wants everyone to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - He's left the decision up to you – are you worthy of eternal life? – if you are, you will obey God and save yourself from this perverse generation (Acts 2:40)
 - Heb. 5:9 Jesus is author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him

➤ **What did the Gentiles do differently, resulting in their salvation?**

- **Acts 13:46-48** they received God's word authoritatively, rather than reject it – cf. **Jews - Rom.1:16**

- **vs. 48** "rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed"

➤ - **Jn. 1:12** receive Jesus, authority of our lives - **Heb. 5:9**

- questions for today:

- Do you rejoice at the fact that we can read, study, and learn God's word? – cf. recreation, going on a date – going to church, Bible class, private study

- Do you glorify the word of God, with your words, attitude, and actions? – cf. good mechanic, good song on radio, good job where make a lot of \$

- Are we so excited to learn God's word to obey and be saved, that you express it in every facet of life?

➤ - **illus.: Lk. 19:40; Matt. 21:15-17** Jesus' triumphant entry, people praise him, staves, children – if you were there?

- summary:

- if we judge ourselves worthy of eternal life, we will rejoice and glorify the word, excited to receive it into our lives and obey

➤ **Result: Filled with the Holy Spirit and Joy**

- **Acts 13:49, 52** word spread, Christians had joy and were filled with the Holy Spirit

- **evangelism:** Christians who are excited about the word, glorifying it, are naturally evangelistic

- **happiness, fulfilled life:** Solomon - Ec. 12:13 fear God and keep His commandments = happiness

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **summary:** people who judge themselves worthy of eternal life obey God, have happy fulfilled lives

- **inv.:** do you judge yourself worthy of eternal life – will you obey God