

Easter 6  
May 17, 2009

Acts 11:19-26  
426-599-598/597-596

(Examination and confirmation in the late service)

See the Evidence of God's Grace!

- I. In the "good news about Jesus."
- II. In God still bringing people to faith in Jesus.

Dear Christian friends – and especially you the members of this year's confirmation class,

***"When Barnabas arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."*** Those are just perfect words for today – yes, they EXPLAIN today. The purpose of the examination is not to make the class SQUIRM one last time – nor to see how smart they are. As the children answer the questions they are really CONFESSING their faith – the faith God has worked in their hearts through His Word. As we hear them confess their faith we ***"see the evidence of the grace of God"*** – we should ***"be glad and encourage them to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."***

So ON with the examination and SEE THE EVIDENCE OF God's grace! See God's grace 1)in the "good news about Jesus" and 2)in God still bringing people to faith in Jesus.

#### **I. In the "good news about Jesus."**

See the evidence of God's grace. What is God's GRACE?

HOW do we even know there is a God?

WHAT do those things tell us about God?

For us to really know God God must tell us about Himself. God does just that in the Bible.

WHAT IS the **Bible**?

What is the doctrine of INSPIRATION?

Because the Bible is God's Word IT IS? (true/trustworthy)

Because the Bible is God's Word what are we NOT TO DO with it?

What are the TWO PARTS of the Bible?

Their MESSAGE?

**In other words** the Bible is all about Jesus!

**In the Bible** God tells us about Himself.

TRIUNE?

What are some of God's OTHER ATTRIBUTES/characteristics?

God is eternal – He has **no beginning** or end. That's NOT TRUE about us or our world. Both have beginnings.

What is the doctrine of CREATION?

God made Adam and Eve ***"in His image."*** WHAT is God's image?

**Not only** did God create our world He is still actively involved in our world and daily lives.

What is the doctrine of PRESERVATION?

How can God PROTECT us from "harm and danger"?

God is still actively involved in the world and He WANTS TO BE a part of our lives – yes, the CENTER of our lives. But there were problems in **our relationship** with our Creator-God.

What are the TWO CHIEF DOCTRINES/teachings of the Bible?

Tell me THREE DIFFERENCES between them.

What are the THREE USES of the law – and EXPLAIN?

The law reminds us that GOD DECIDES what is right or wrong – NOT US or **what others** are doing or we see on TV. God - AS GOD! – claims total control over our lives – **control** of our morals and values – **control** of our priorities in life and our **attitude** – control of the language we use and the way we treat and talk about other people. God defined right and wrong with His 10 Commandments. (Can YOU still recite and **explain** each one?!)  
WHAT is **sin**?

What are the TWO TYPES or **kinds** of sin – and give an EXAMPLE?

What is ORIGINAL SIN?

People like to make excuses for their sins or shrug them off as no big deal. But God says we DESERVE WHAT because of our sins?

**Because of our sin** our relationship with God was IN RUINS. But thank God we HAVE HIS WORD that reveals the **“good news about Jesus Christ.”** ONLY in God’s Word do we learn about Jesus and all He’s done for us.

What does the word GOSPEL MEAN?

What does the NAME Jesus mean?

How do we know Jesus is TRUE GOD?

What is the doctrine of the INCARNATION?

The VIRGIN BIRTH?

What TWO THINGS did Jesus do to save us?

What do we CALL that?

FOR WHOM did Jesus do all that?

What is the doctrine of the VICARIOUS ATONEMENT?

What does the word JUSTIFY mean?

WHOM has God **justified**?

HOW can God justify us?

The **“good news about Jesus Christ”** is that Jesus has taken care of everything for us. God wants everyone to **be convinced** that Jesus is their perfect Savior so God tells us that in **many different ways**. **For example** the Bible calls Jesus the CHRIST or MESSIAH.

What does that name CHRIST mean?

What did ANOINTING MEAN in the Old Testament?

To what THREE OFFICES (jobs) was Jesus anointed?

How is Jesus our PROPHET?

PRIEST?

KING?

The Bible also teaches that Jesus is our **perfect Savior** by calling Him our Redeemer.

What does REDEEM mean?

WHAT PRICE did Jesus pay to redeem us?

What does it mean that Jesus has redeemed us from ALL SINS?

DEATH?

POWER OF THE DEVIL?

Our Lord Jesus is true God and **true man** in one person. But Jesus didn’t always look or **act** like God while here on earth. There was no halo around His head.

What is Jesus' HUMILIATION?

WHY did Jesus **humble** Himself?

What is Jesus EXALTATION?

Jesus DESCENT into hell proves what?

Jesus' resurrection assures us of what THREE truths?

And now our Savior has ascended into heaven and is ruling all things in this world for **His glory** and the **eternal good** of His people.

That's "the good news about Jesus Christ." That's the GRACE of God! We don't save ourselves. Jesus has TAKEN CARE of everything for us. **For Jesus sake** God has forgiven all our sins. TRUSTING in Jesus we have a whole new relationship with God – we have peace with God – we're promised eternal life in heaven. ALL of that is ours THROUGH FAITH in Jesus. Here too SEE THE EVIDENCE of God's grace as...

## II. God still brings people to faith in Jesus as their Savior.

What does it mean to BELIEVE/HAVE FAITH in Jesus?

What is our NATURAL SPIRITUAL condition?

It takes God the Holy Spirit to bring people to faith in Jesus.

We call the work of the Holy Spirit **sanctification**.

WHAT does sanctify mean?

HOW does the Holy Spirit sanctify/make us holy?

The Holy Spirit also helps us live holy – **God-pleasing** lives.

What are GOOD WORKS?

WHY do we do good works?

WHAT GUIDES us in doing good works?

WHAT MEANS does the Holy Spirit use to sanctify us?

What is a SACRAMENT?

HOW MANY sacraments are there – WHAT are they?

What is the sacrament of Holy BAPTISM?

What does the WORD baptize mean?

HOW do you baptize a person?

WHY do we baptize babies?

WHAT did God do for you when you were baptized?

HOW could the water do all that?

We are baptized only once but our Baptism is something for us to live and enjoy every day of our lives.

What does Baptism MEAN in our everyday lives?

The other sacrament is Holy Communion.

What IS Holy Communion?

HOW do we know Communion REALLY IS Jesus' true body and blood with the bread and wine?

Holy Communion is really a miracle. We can't explain it – it doesn't make ANY SENSE but Jesus' words are clear and we TAKE JESUS AT His Word. **"This IS My body – This IS My blood."** The bread we eat REALLY IS Jesus' true body. The wine we drink REALLY IS Jesus' true blood.

WHAT BLESSINGS does Jesus give us in Holy Communion?

What does Jesus PROVE to us with Holy Communion?

I won't ask HOW OFTEN you should come to Communion. That's like asking how often I should **come to church** or read my Bible. If I think I DON'T NEED to come to church every week or to read my Bible at home – **if I think** I don't need to GROW in my faith – that I don't need God's FORGIVENESS or God's HELP in living a holy life – then I have some REALLY BIG **spiritual** problems. When I understand ALL THE BLESSINGS God has for me in His **Word and sacraments** I will faithfully use them.

Communion is a wonderful blessing from God. Like any other blessing it can BE ABUSED and **misused**. Then a person is actually sinning by coming to Communion. So we are told to examine ourselves before coming to Communion.

HOW do you **examine** yourself?

Trusting in Jesus we have God's forgiveness of all our sins. We are children of God. We have heaven as our home.

WHAT HAPPENS when a person dies?

What is HELL like?

HEAVEN?

What will happen on the **Last Day**?

WHO will be raised from the dead?

HOW will people BE JUDGED?

How do you GET READY for Judgment Day?

***“When Barnabas arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”*** Isn't that just perfect for today? SEE THE EVIDENCE of God's grace at work in the hearts of our children and rejoice that God has been busy confirming them in their faith. Keep praying for these young Christians and ***“encourage them to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”*** Amen.

SECOND SERVICE – APOSTLES' CREED