

Mixtures

Putting 2 different things together
Especially when it gets hard to tell them apart

Can be good

- Sneak some spinach into the hamburger

Can be bad

- Allergens

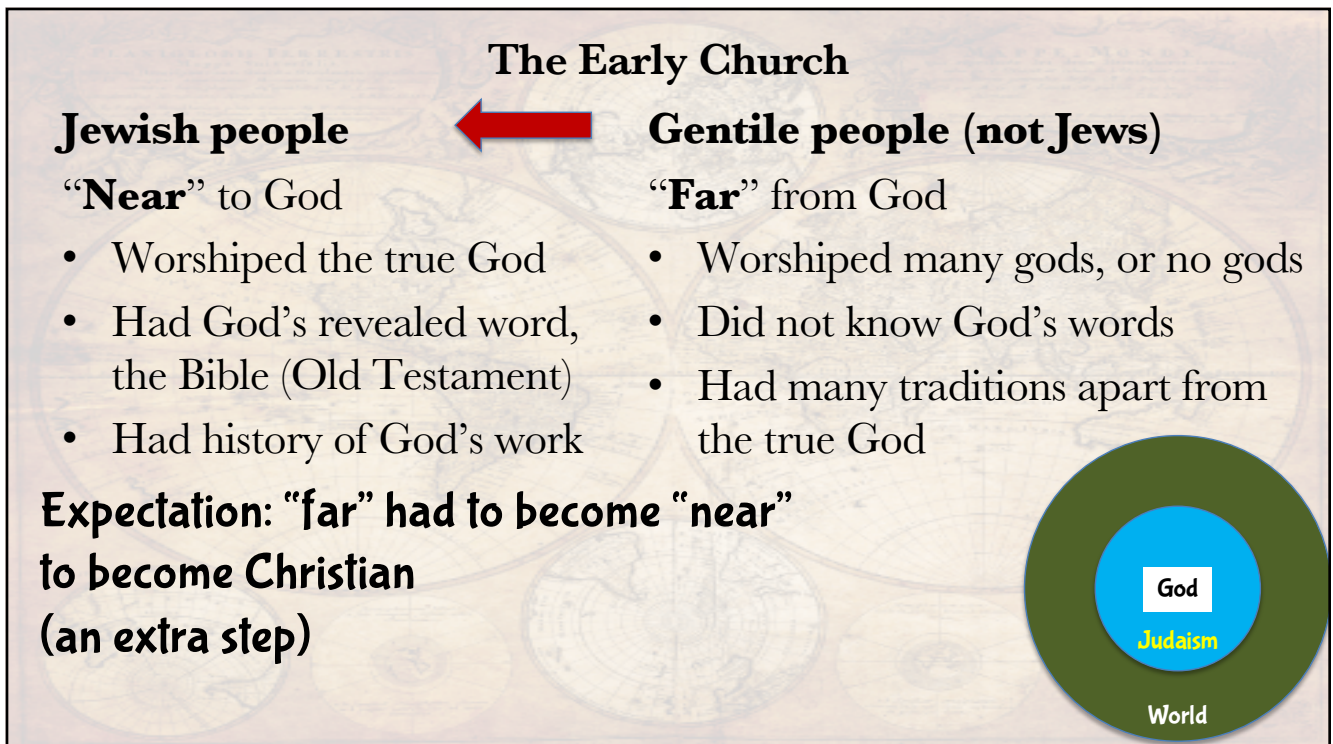
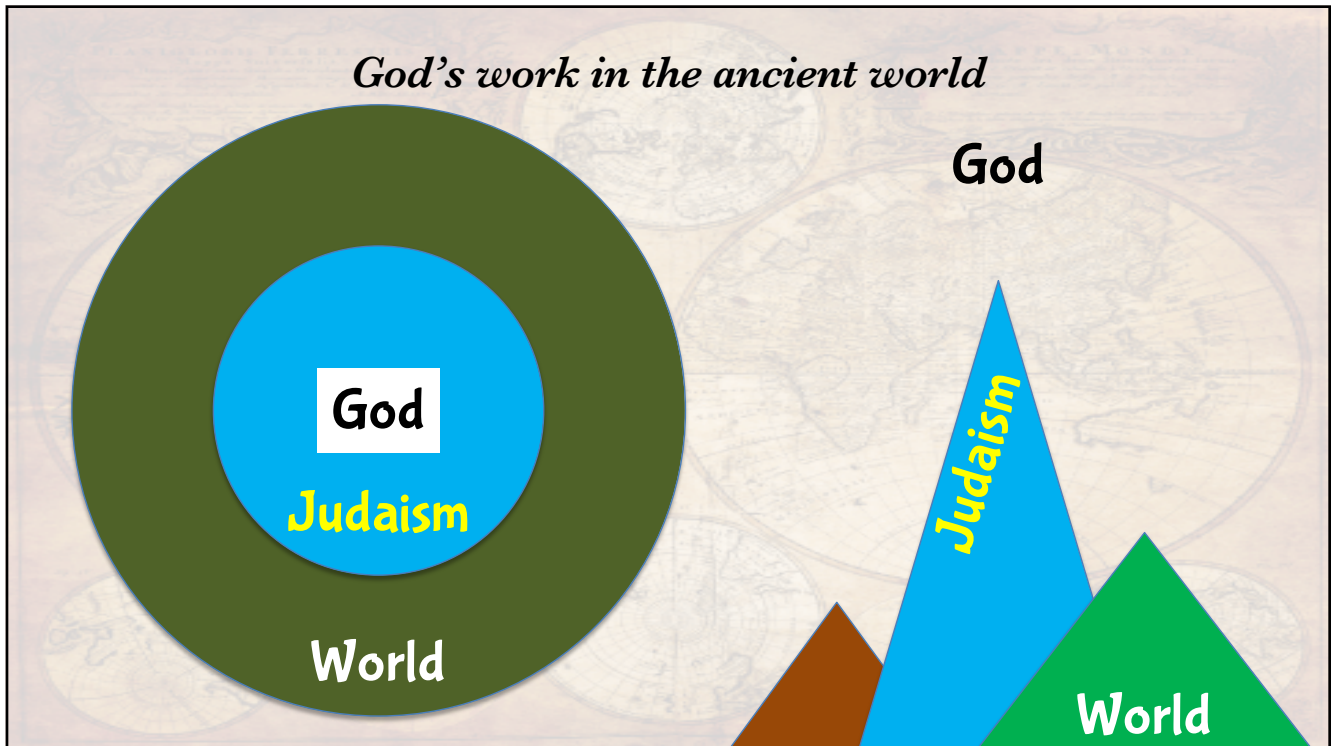
Christian mixtures can bring serious problems!

The Only Way

Acts 13:44-52

Chinese: page 1790
Spanish: page 1405
English-Brown: page 1106
English-Green: page 754
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Antioch:
Important Roman city
Mostly Gentiles
Also many Jews
Synagogue:
a gathering place
for mostly Jews
as well as many Gentiles



Acts 13:13-52

- 13-43: Paul preached in the synagogue in Antioch
- 44-45: • Jews and God-fearing Gentiles heard him
- 46-47: • Central message: “through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to **you.**” (verse 38)
- 48: •
- 49-52: • Same need and same solution for Jews and Gentiles
- Based on God’s promises in the Jewish Scriptures
 - People begged them to teach more the next Sabbath
 - Many Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism
- believed in Jesus

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Acts 13:13-52

13-43: Paul preached in the synagogue in Antioch

44-45: Many Jews: jealousy and opposition

46-47: • Huge interest from Gentiles

48: • Probably included many Gentiles who had

49-52: converted to Judaism or were exploring Judaism

• The Jews “were filled with jealousy”

ζήλος = zelos = Zeal and Jealousy

Zeal: great energy and passion for a cause

Jealousy: envy (unhappy) because of what someone else has

• **Good zeal: passionate for what is good**

– When Jesus cleared the temple from evil:

“Zeal for your house will consume me.” *John 2:17*

– Paul’s desire to protect Christians from false teaching:

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.”

2 Corinthians 11:2

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- **Good zeal: passionate for what is good**
- **Misdirected zeal: passionate but confused**

– “For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.”

Romans 10:2

– Sadly, this is very common in religions and world views

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Zeal: great energy and passion for a cause

Jealousy: envy (unhappy) because of what someone else has

- **Good zeal: passionate for what is good**
- **Misdirected zeal: passionate but confused**
- **Bad zeal: selfish passion (jealousy)**

– “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

James 3:16

– Sadly, this is very common in people

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• **Misdirected zeal:** defend the synagogue and keep Gentile converts from God’s Gospel

• **Bad zeal:** upset that Christianity was reducing their power and popularity

• So they opposed Paul, and the Gospel of God

Acts 13:13-52

13-43: Paul preached in the synagogue in Antioch

44-45: Many Jews: jealousy and opposition

46-47: Paul: God’s plan: Jews first, then Gentiles

48: • Self-judgment when we turn away from God

49-52: • The Gospel: “the gospel...is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes:

first to the **Jew**, **then** to the **Gentile.**” *Romans 1:16*

• God’s intention:

use His people to reach people who aren’t like us

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48: Gentiles: joy and salvation

- 49-52:
- Joy: don't have to switch cultures or ethnicities to be a Christian
 - It is a gift to each person in each culture
 - God's work: "appointed for eternal life" and human action: "believed the word of the Lord" in the same event: salvation
 - Focus: the Gospel = the word of the Lord

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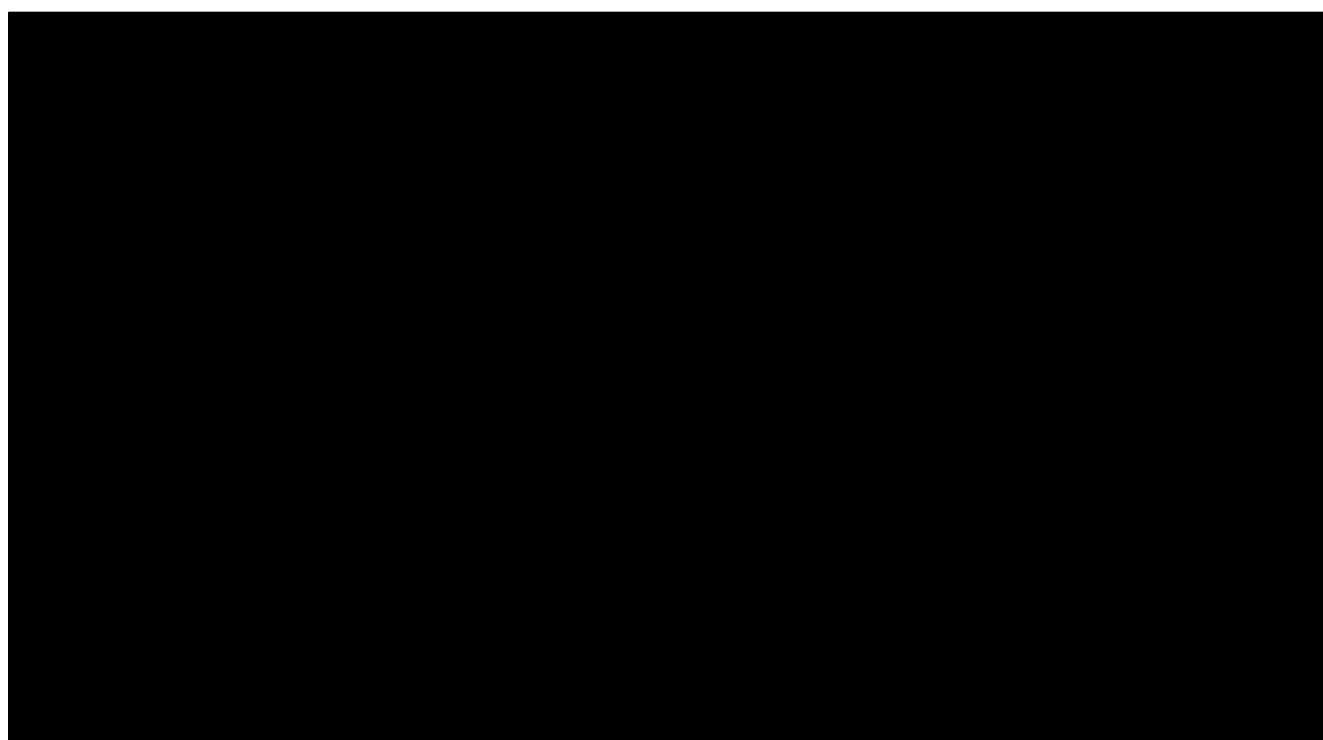
48: Gentiles: joy and salvation

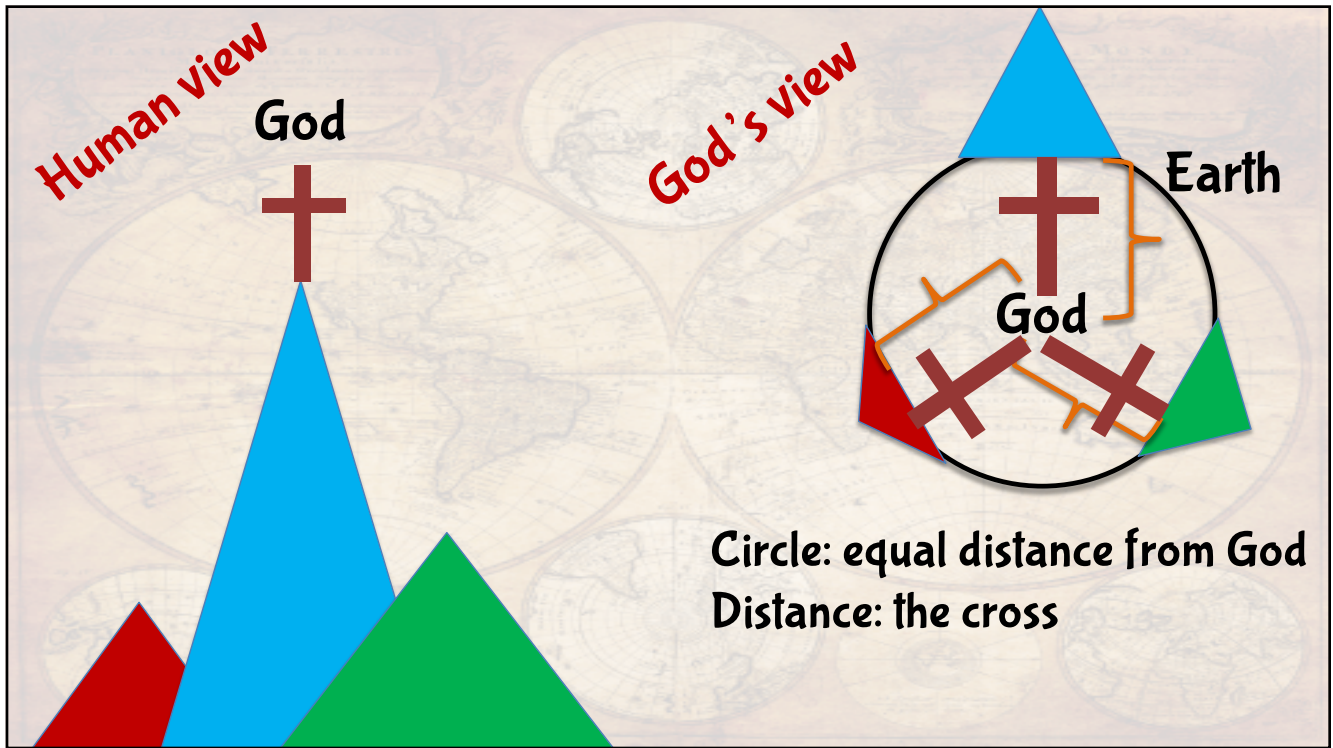
49-52: Opposition, and joy-filled growth of the Gospel

- Opponents
 - Tried to use political skill/power to stop the Gospel
- The new disciples (students of Jesus)
 - Spread the word of the Lord
 - Filled with joy
 - Normal reaction to the grace of God
 - By the presence/fruit of the Holy Spirit

The Big Idea

The only path
from every person everywhere
to God
is through Christ alone





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Application

Be humble

- Turn away from “bad zeal”/jealousy
- Admit that I need God’s grace just like everyone else
- Rejoice when the Gospel grows
 - Even if my church closes or seems unimportant
 - Even if I am unimportant in that growth
 - Even if my country or culture loses prominence or power
- **“Jesus must become greater;
I must become less.” *John 3:30***

Application

Be humble

Avoid confusing mixtures

- Turn away from “misplaced zeal”
- Zeal for my culture or country must never be mixed or confused with zeal for the Gospel
 - In what I do
 - In what I say
 - In what people understand

“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 Corinthians 2:2

“In Christ alone our hope is found”

We try to take this seriously: in our worship, discipleship, proclamation

- It is an important journey!



The Gospel = Good News

Every person is made in the image of God

- Created to love God and to love people

Every person is born broken and cut off from God

- No culture or country makes you and me

more in need of the Gospel, or less in need of the Gospel

Jesus Christ's death is the **only hope**, and the **same hope**, for every person everywhere, through faith alone

“through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you”

- We don't have to learn a language, adopt a new culture, stop loving our own culture, or ... to be saved

Application

Be humble

Be careful to avoid confusing mixtures

Rejoice in the Gospel

- You and I need this **gift** of God,
exactly the same as everyone else
- We all are naturally the same distance from God:
the length of the cross of Jesus Christ
- Receive this gift,
and be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit!

The Big Idea

The only path
from every person everywhere
to God
is through Christ alone

“Jesus must become greater; I must become less.” *John 3:30*

**“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” *1 Corinthians 2:2***