1. **Intro:**

1.1. **Mothers:** My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her. **George Washington** (mother Mary)

1.2. I want to be **sensitive** to those who desired to have a child & couldn’t. And to those who didn’t have a great model for mothers.

1.2.1. We are grateful for your model.

1.2.2. Though you grieve, we honor you today.

1.3. What you represent in a day in which it isn’t that popular to be simply seen as a mother...Though it is the most influential position one can have on the planet.

1.4. **Please Stand:** (Pray) Acknowledge God’s grace in their “words, touch, & model”.

1.4.1. What a pleasure to have **given life** to little people.

1.4.2. Mothers who long for their kids safe return.

1.4.3. Our presidents mother & her influence on his life; presidents wife & her influence on her daughters.

1.4.4. There isn’t a life **not touched** by their mother.

1.5. **Story** – Last year Larry, Wayne & I visited a mosque in Indonesia. We wore goatees so we wouldn’t stick out. The head mufti came in & greeted all 3 of us w/durkey, durkey, durkey! [We asked our friend there what durkey meant? He explained he thought you were from Turkey! You past!]

1.5.1. So, on we go to Turkey w/Paul!

2. **STUFFING TURKEY WITH THE GOSPEL!** (13-41)

2.1. **Leadership Change!** (13,14)

2.2. From **Barnabas & Paul** to “Paul & his party.”

2.3. **John Mark** returns/resigns/defects from the mission.

2.4. **Explain travel course** – From island of Cyprus (Paphos) north to Turkey.

2.4.1. **Perga** – is 12 miles inland in the province known as Pamphylia.

2.4.1.1. Greek city, large Temple (Artemis) [Diana of the Ephesians]

2.4.2. **Antioch in Pisidia** – is a 100 mile trip on foot through rugged mountains. [region infested w/bandits who preyed on travelers]

2.4.2.1. Maybe place Paul referred to “in perils of robbers” (2 Cor.11:26)

2.4.2.2. Major trade route. Had a synagogue.

2.5. **Antioch is in the region of Galatia.** Soon after Paul ministered there he wrote his 1st epistle to the churches, the epistle to the Galatians.

2.5.1. Only letter he wrote to a number of churches.
2.5.2. The name Galatians was given to the Celtic people because they originally came from Gaul before migrating to Asia Minor.

2.5.3. Where he talks about blessings from God via faith, not law.

2.5.4. A faith that sets men free to enjoy liberty in Christ. - A liberty to produce the fruits of righteousness through a spirit-led life-style!

2.6. **3RD LONGEST SERMON IN ACTS!** (15-41)

2.7. To win the God-fearing Gentiles, Paul had to take the calculated risk of offending the hard-core Jews.¹

2.8. (17) An uplifted arm – mighty power!

- **2.8.1.** The time of the Exodus was a period of the most concentrated displays of divine power in history.

2.9. (26) Then came the shocker – to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

- **2.9.1.** You...who? – Jews yes, but Gentiles were mentioned also.

- **2.9.2.** God’s new plan of salvation included Gentiles!

2.10. To you – as an email to whom it is addressed; as a diagnosis to a patient.

2.11. (38,39) **Forgiveness** of sins – The Jews would consider this the day of Atonement.

- **2.11.1.** Which had to be repeated year after year, because sins could not be forgiven once for all.

- **2.11.2.** Never before defined, only typified by sending away scapegoat.

- **2.11.3.** OT heard a lot of sins being “covered” now being “taken away”!

- **2.11.4.** Jesus saves us from: the penalty of sin(past), the power of sin(presently), & one day(future) from the presence of sin.

2.12. **Justified** from all things – This is Christianity’s most important theological truths, justification by faith. (justified by believing not by “doing”)

- **2.12.1.** This is a legal term that implies full acquittal.

- **2.12.2.** Once justification takes place it does not need to be repeated time after time. The record is wiped clean!!!

- **2.12.3.** Who can be justified? Paul was perfectly clear by repeating it twice, both Jews & God-fearers, aka Gentiles (16 & 26).

2.13. Everyone can believe! Jews said the message of salvation was “keep the Law”; Paul’s new message of salvation...“believe”!!!

2.14. Paul was fulfilling his commission! (read 26:17,18)

- **2.14.1.** [open eyes; dark to light; power of Satan to God]

¹ Peter Wagner; pg.299
2.15. Christians we are *to-day* accepted in the Beloved, *to-day* absolved from sin, *to-day* acquitted at the bar of God!

2.15.1. Spurgeon said, “We are *now* - even *now* pardoned; even *now* are our sins put away; even *now* we stand in the sight of God accepted, as though we had never been guilty. ‘There is therefore *now* no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.’ There is not a sin in the Book of God, even *now*, against *one* of his people.” ☺

2.16. After the *war* with *sin* comes the *peace* with *God*!

2.16.1. He gives us “*pardon, life, peace, liberty, healing, cleansing, refreshment, comfort, & strength.*”

3. **RESULTS! (42-52)**

3.1. **TWICE-BORN MEN!**

3.2. (47) Purpose: I have set you as a light – Let’s take this personal!

3.2.1. He has called us to be “*Salt*” (make em thirsty); &

3.2.1. To be “*a light*” (may they see the *lack of darkness* in your life).

3.3. Reason: For salvation to the ends of the earth – Let’s take this personal!

3.3.1. Like an old *Standard Oil* slogan (made John D. Rockefeller a *billionaire*), “*Get the Light into Every Dark Corner of the world.*” [Their goal, multitudes of towns & villages lighted w/*the kerosene oil of the West*]

3.3.1.1. Well we’ve gotten *oil & gas* into most all parts of the world…but have been a *lot slower* to bring them *the light of the gospel*!

3.4. (48) Don’t trouble yourself with *election*, encourage yourself in it.

3.4.1. This is sure evidence of your election.

3.5. **Eternal life** – Doesn’t signify an *endless existence* (though encompasses that), it speaks to *quality* of life, not just the *quantity*; to its *character*, not just its *duration*!

3.5.1. **Eternal life is** when He brings us from spiritual *death* to spiritual *life*!

3.5.2. **Eternal life is** experiencing the life of Christ! “*He who has the Son has life!*” 1 Jn.5:12

3.5.3. **Eternal life is** a new life! “*all things become new*”. 2 Cor.5:17

3.5.4. **Eternal life has** changed bondage to freedom! “*Christ has made us free*”. Gal.5:1

3.5.5. **Eternal life is** for “*doing the will of God from the heart!*” Eph.6:6

3.6. (52) **Joy** – If *one* thing characterized the Christians of the NT, the answer would be their *joy*!

3.6.1. Is this true of *Christians* today? Of *you* today? It should distinguish us from the world!

3.6.2. **Joy is like the peace of God** – the world can neither *give* it nor *take* it away.

3.6.3. **Joy is** a condition, a state of the soul due to being *right with God*. 
3.7. **Story** - At the height of her fame as the other woman in the Ivana & Donald Trump breakup, Marla Maples spoke of her religious roots. She believed in the Bible, she told interviewers, & then added the disclaimer, “but you can’t always take it literally and be happy.” C. Colson, *The Body*, p. 124

3.8. **Happiness** is different from joy, it is dependent on happy circumstances!
   3.8.1. Joy is independent of these.
   3.8.2. We may long for a change in our circumstances, and sometimes that’s what we get. But a changed life is our deepest need. Changed circumstances may make us happier, but a changed life will make us better, for it will make us like Christ. Francis Schaeffer

3.9. **Happiness** is affected by what one has!
   3.9.1. Joy by what one is.

3.10. **Happiness** comes from experience of good, as distinct from evil!
   3.10.1. Joy from experience from God, apart from good or evil.

3.11. **Happiness** comes through things outside, which stir feelings within!
   3.11.1. Joy leaps within, from God in the heart & soul.

3.12. **Happiness** is like the changing surface of the ocean; Joy like the ocean bed, untouched by change of wind or atmosphere.

3.13. **Story** - As a 3rd century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: “It’s a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians - and I am one of them.” Moody Bible Institute’s, *Today In The Word*, June, 1988, p. 18

3.14. But when you are experiencing this joy…don’t forget to tell your face, Smile! 😊

3.15. A conference at a certain church in Omaha. People were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. This church wasn’t normally free to express themselves w/an “Hallelujah or a Praise the Lord.” All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over 1/3 of the balloons were unreleased. Let your balloon go!

3.16. **End**: Ps.16:11 “In Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand pleasures forevermore.”