

Date: May 24, 2020

Series: Acts

Message #38: “*Turning the World Right Side Up*”

Text: Acts 17:1-15

“In its natural state the world is already upside-down. The world was turned wrong-side-up at the fall and has been going in reverse ever since. So, when men and women in Thessalonica were turned around by Christ, everyone else saw them as upside-down. A believer lives right-side up in a topsy-turvy world.” (Kent Hughes)

The “virus” of sin is a trillion times more deadly than Covid-19! The world doesn’t need a vaccine, it needs a Savior. And Jesus Christ is that Savior! (2 Tim. 3:1-4; Jn. 3:16-18)

Our primary mission in this world is to *adorn* the gospel of Jesus Christ and to clearly *articulate* the gospel to the individuals that God places within our reach.

Three commitments that will help us to “*turn the world right side up*” with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

I. A _____ Born Out of Love

2 Cor. 11:23-29; Acts 9:15-16; 20:22-24; Rom. 9:3; 10:1; 1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Cor. 5:11, 14-15, 20.

Paul’s life was one of ongoing determination and bravery.

II. Proclaiming the Right _____ (vs.1-3, 10-11)

Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Isa. 53:5-6; Psa. 16:10; 22; Lk. 24:31-32.

Manmade messages have no supernatural power to save or sanctify sinners.

III. Accepting the _____ Response of People (vs.4-9, 12-15)

Matt. 7:13-14; 2 Cor. 2:15-16; Jn. 15:18-21; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:7-8.

The declaration of the clear gospel message resulted in the salvation of *some* people and opposition from *many* people.

Questions to Ponder and Discuss

- What do you see as the *greatest* need in our world/country today? How do you think Jesus would answer that question? (consider—Matt. 4:19; 5:13-16; 28:18-20; Lk. 9:23-26; 24:46-48; John 3:16-18; 20:30-31; Acts 1:8)
- What do we mean when we assert that the gospel of Jesus Christ is “the main thing”?
- How can we “keep the main thing, the main thing” while also discharging other biblical priorities in our efforts to be salt and light in a fallen world (e.g. promoting the sanctity of human life; upholding biblical morality, gender distinction, biblical marriage, etc.; social justice; caring for the poor and afflicted, etc.)? Is there a key to pursuing a biblical balance?
- What fed Paul’s boldness to share the gospel in the face of consistent opposition? (consider—Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:11, 14-21; Rom. 9:1-3; Phil. 1:21; 1 Cor. 9:16; 1 Tim. 1:12-17)
- Do you ever battle fear in doing person evangelism? Besides fear are there other things that hinder you from speaking when you have opportunities to share the gospel with an unsaved friend or relative? How might you overcome such fears and hindrances? (along with the verses above, also consider—Lk. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Pet. 3:13-16; Lk. 7:47; Matt. 12:34b)
- Have you ever been persecuted in some form as a result of your witness for Christ?
- There is currently much concern over preserving our religious liberty in our country. Are you personally capitalizing on the religious freedom you have to witness to the unbelievers God has placed in your life?
- How should we measure success in personal evangelism? Is God only pleased when our witnessing efforts result in conversions? Have we failed when people reject the Lord? (consider—Matt. 7:13-14; 13:3-9, 18-23; 1 Cor. 3:6-9; 4:1-2)
- The Bereans were noble-minded because “they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:11). In practical terms, how can we individually and collectively emulate the Bereans’ eager receptivity and doctrinal discernment? What does a modern-day Berean Christian look like?