

Acts 17:1-15
Turning The World Upside Down

When the British army surrendered at Yorktown effectively ending the American war of Independence it marched away to a tune entitled “The World Turned Upside Down.” It was the end for both Britain and the United States. In a more profound way the world was turned upside down in the first century A.D. as the gospel was proclaimed by the apostles throughout the known world.

I. How The Lord Turns the World Upside Down – v. 1-3

A. Hostile hearers – Rom. 8:18; Phil. 1:21

B. Boldness

1. A boldness to preach the gospel – I Thess. 2:2
2. Thomas Manton defines our mission...(Matt. 6:24; Luke 14:26; I John 5:4)

C. Reasoning from the Scripture

1. Be ready to give a defense – I Pet. 3:15
2. Paul had not changed his method – Acts 17:17-18
3. The two edged sword – Heb. 4:12; Jam. 1:21

D. Content of that Reasoning

1. Proclaim Christ – v.3
2. Christ’s death and resurrection – Isa. 53:10-12; Psa. 16:10,11

II. What Happens When the Lord Turns Peoples Lives Upside Down

A. The gospel does not simply come with words from Scripture but with power of the Holy Spirit – I Thess. 1:5; II Cor. 2:16

B. In a relatively short time some Jews were converted to Christ and joined Paul and Silas – II Thess. 1:9

C. Pay homage to the Son of God – Psa. 2:12

D. Blessing in Berea v.10-13

1. They were more “noble-minded” than the believers in Thessalonica.
2. They received the message with great eagerness – v.11; II Tim. 2:15
3. They examined the Scriptures daily (Lenski) Isa. 8:20; I Thess. 5:21

E. Opposition:

1. When the Lord is at work it never fails the powers of darkness are not far behind – (G.Campbel Morgan)
2. Doors open and close – v. 14-15

Conclusion:

1. *We can be like Paul and his missionary team turning the world upside down! The gospel is the means to lift soul’s right side up. II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:17*
2. *We can like Paul and his missionary team experience what happens when the Lord turns people’s lives upside down. Noble- mindedness – I Pet. 2:2*
Eagerness – comes to an enlightened soul when one is eager he can’t wait for something to take place.
Examination – Is to test our skills. It is a formal interrogation. (Students of Theology are examined by the Presbytery)

