

***Turning
The World
Upside Down***

Acts 17:1-6

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1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Acts 17:1-6 - continued

4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Introduction

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

A. Our debt to the early church

- 1. They evangelized their world**
- 2. They took the Great Commission seriously**
- 3. They were faithful so we have the message today**

Introduction

B. Their challenge and ours

- 1. Christians a minority compared to the world**
- 2. Christians commissioned to reach the world**
- 3. People being born faster than reborn**

What Did Those Early Christians Have That We Need?

I. They Were On Fire For Christ

A. The fire of Pentecost was still being fed

Proverbs 26:20

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Acts 2:47

**Praising God, and having favour with all the people.
And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

I. They Were On Fire For Christ

B. The world needs to see the church on fire

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

I. They Were On Fire For Christ

**We Do Not Need A Controlled
Burn, We Need A Wild Fire**

II. They Found True Fellowship In Christ

Acts 2:41-46

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

II. They Found True Fellowship In Christ

Acts 2:41-46 - continued

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

II. They Found True Fellowship In Christ

A. Once divided, now bound together in love

Ephesians 4:2-3

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

B. The basis of their fellowship: the apostles doctrine

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

III. They Were Fully Surrendered To Christ

Acts 4:18-20

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

III. They Were Fully Surrendered To Christ

A. They could not stop

1 Corinthians 9:16

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

III. They Were Fully Surrendered To Christ

B. They laid everything on the altar

C. Too many Christians are trying to save their lives

1. As a result they lose them

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

2. They lose also their impact for Christ

We Need Genuine Revival