

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did the people get so caught up in the “uproar”? How did it affect the ministry of Paul and Silas?
2. Why do people who hear the gospel in the same room at the same time have such opposite reactions?
3. Does hearing the gospel require one to make a decision of some kind?
4. Why are some people indifferent to the gospel, while others reject it?

SUMMARY:

Human nature coupled with background and experience will often make hearers of the Word react differently. Only the upright, earnest prayer of one searching for God will enable him to receive the Word in the way that God wants man to accept it.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

November 13, 2005

Fourth Quarter

EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 17:1-14*

LESSON SETTING: Paul, just released from prison, goes to Thessalonica, then travels on to Berea.

TIME: Approximately 53 A.D.

I. THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED. Acts 17:1-4

- A. The Explanation of Jesus’ Suffering and Death (vs. 3)
Acts 26:22-24
- B. Examples of Rejection (vs. 4) Luke 7:29-31; Acts 26:27- 28
- C. Believing Hearts (vs. 4) Acts 8:36-38; 10:30-31

II. THE GOSPEL OPPOSED. Acts 17:5-9

- A. Frenzied Opposition to the Message (vs. 5) Psalm 2; Acts 21:27-36
- B. Attitude of a Scorned Messenger of God (vs. 5) Acts 21:40; 22:1

III. THE GOSPEL BELIEVED. Acts 17:10-14

- A. Eager Hearts Are Everywhere Waiting to Hear. Romans 10:15

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THESE THAT HAVE TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN ARE COME HITHER ALSO.*

Acts 17:6

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; 2:1-20; 5:1-28

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 33:6-29

1 Samuel 12:1-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: PERSISTENCE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

INTRODUCTION:

We must remember as children of God that He has chosen and called us before we chose to be His children; therefore, it is important that we know His purpose in calling us. In relation to this lesson, at least one purpose is given in 1 Thessalonians 4:7: "*For God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness*"; we must persist in righteousness.

Becoming a child of God is not by our own merit or by our own good works, but by His grace through faith. Likewise, to continue in righteousness is not of our own strength, but "*He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" (Philippians 1:6) "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" (Ephesians 2:10)

CENTRAL TRUTH: Those to whom God has granted salvation should continue to live up to their privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities.

GOLDEN TEXT: *FURTHERMORE THEN WE BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, AND EXHORT YOU BY THE LORD JESUS, THAT AS YE HAVE RECEIVED OF US HOW YE OUGHT TO WALK AND TO PLEASE GOD, SO YE WOULD ABOUND MORE AND MORE.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1

The key word in this verse is "abound" which means "to be over and above." The Thessalonian believers had done well in that they received the Word of God, and did serve Him, but in this letter they are encouraged to continue and increase more and more. Conversion is only the beginning. We are to increase in faith, in love, in spiritual fruit, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. "*And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men.*" (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

Dear Jesus would that I could be
In all things minded like to Thee!
Grant Saviour, that I walk aright
As child and servant in thy sight!

Give me a heart that knows no fear;
Grant zeal when it is needful here;
But let me act with modesty,
Wisely, O Lord, and prudently.

Z.H. 164:1, 7

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 14 - 20

M. Promise to the Persistent. Genesis 17:1-18

T. Patience for Persistence. Genesis 26:17-25

W. Rewards for Persistence. Genesis 41:38-45

T. The Prudence of Persistence. Proverbs 4:13-27

F. *Exemplifying Persistence. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

S. *The Importance of Persistence. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

S. *The Fruit of Persistence. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24