

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Paul's message bring such reaction? What can we learn from this?
2. Is God harder to believe in because He is not in a "tangible" form? (e.g. idol, gold, etc.)
3. What other forms might other "Gods" take? (Exodus 20: 2-6)
4. Can we be too curious as believers? (verse 21)
5. What idolatry exists in the world today?

SUMMARY:

The mainstream of truth in this lesson for our time lies not in the concept that God is dead, nor is it associated with numerous mysterious ideas about an unknown God, but rather in the declaration of God as spoken by the Apostle Paul over 1,900 years ago. It is further based upon the realization that "*men loved darkness rather than light*" and "*he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*" It is finally illuminated by the fact that Jesus came as a "*light that shineth in darkness . . . the true LIGHT which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*" Therefore, all men everywhere are now obligated to repent.

The summation of the whole matter is as Jesus said, "*Whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him.*"

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

November 27, 2005

Fourth Quarter

THE MESSAGE AT MARS HILL

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 17:15-34*

LESSON SETTING: Paul is brought to Athens from Berea.

TIME: Approximately 53 A.D.

I. IGNORANCE OF GOD WIDESPREAD. Acts 17:15-23

- A. Throughout the City (vs. 16)
- B. Amongst the Philosophers (vs. 18)
- C. In Areopagus (vs. 19, 23)

II. GROPING FOR GOD. Acts 17:15-23

- A. In Worship (vs. 16, 23) Matthew 15:9
- B. By Whole City (vs. 16) Deuteronomy 28:29; Job 5:14
- C. In Teaching (vs. 19)

III. GOD REVEALED THROUGH MESSAGE. Acts 17:24-29

- A. As Creator (vs. 24, 29)
- B. As Lord of Heaven and Earth (vs. 24)
- C. As a Spirit (vs. 24, 25, 29)
- D. As Giver of All Good Things (vs. 25)
- E. As Savior (vs. 26, 27, 30)

IV. ALL MEN RESPONSIBLE NOW. Acts 17:30-34

- A. To Repent (vs. 30)
- B. A Fact at Judgment (vs. 31)
- C. Note Reactions (vs. 32, 34)

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND THE TIMES OF THIS IGNORANCE GOD WINKED AT; BUT NOW COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT.*

Acts 17:30

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 18:1-17
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 106:1-22

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: CONQUESTS AT CORINTH

INTRODUCTION:

We learn in this lesson of the business occupation of Paul and those who worked with him at this trade. They worked at this trade to provide their own livelihood so they would not be accountable to anyone in Corinth. It is interesting also to note that he did not shirk his responsibility of preaching the Gospel, but reasoned every Sabbath in the Synagogue and testified of Christ to the Jews. It was here, too, that he made the decision to turn to the Gentiles with the Gospel after the Jews had refused to receive the message of salvation.

Crispus, the chief ruler of the Synagogue was one of the Jews who did receive the Gospel and believed with all his house, a real testimony of the effectual working of the Spirit through this man. Also many of the Corinthian people became believers and were baptized. Here too, Paul experienced the voice of the Lord, encouraging him to continue speaking without fear.

After a period of time the Jews did try to stop his ministry but God, working through the Roman deputy, confounded them. They were driven from the judgment seat. How faithful God was in keeping His promise that no one would set themselves against Paul. Instead, he who had intended to bring Paul into judgment and affliction was himself, beaten before the judgment seat.

CENTRAL TRUTH: There is one God, the supreme Creator; to Him all men must give an account some day.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . **BE NOT AFRAID, BUT SPEAK, AND HOLD NOT THY PEACE.**
Acts 18:9

Recently, someone raised the question “How does God speak to His chosen vessels?” First of all, we have to see what is necessary on the part of men and women to hear the voice of God. In a recent lesson we were reminded that those who were serving God and fasting and praying “heard” the Holy Ghost. We don’t know how the Holy Ghost spoke but we can believe that it was in some audible form because the Bible says so. Now we read that Paul heard the voice of the Lord speaking to him in the night by a vision.

Nearly every Christian has the desire to hear the voice of the Lord even as Paul heard it. Perhaps the reason we do not hear it as we desire, is because we do not satisfy the requirements. When we are so busy with the material things and our thoughts are so full of the activities of each day, of our work, or civil or social obligations, we have substituted them for the things of God. They have become more important to us than the “ministering to the Lord and fasting”. When we are properly prepared we too may hear the Lord say to us the words of our Golden Text.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Nov. 28 – Dec. 4

- M. *The Gospel Proclaimed in Corinth. Acts 18:1-17
- T. The Gospel Strengthens the Churches. Acts 18:18-23
- W. The Foundation for Spiritual Growth. 1 Corinthians 3:1-11
- T. The Testing of Our Works. 1 Corinthians 3:12-23
- F. A Call for Faithfulness. 1 Corinthians 4:1-8
- S. The Reward for Faithfulness. 1 Corinthians 15:12-23
- S. The Rapture of the Faithful. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58