SHINNING THROUGH THE DARKNESS

Lesson #8 –Darkness of Ignorance
Scripture Reading: 2Corinthians 4:3-6

Introduction:
1. There is a variety of darkness that we must shine our light through. (Brief review)
2. Paul shines the light of the gospel to those in the darkness of ignorance.
3. Paul accomplished this by…

I. **PROPER MOTIVATION**
   A. PAUL WAITED IN ATHENS
      1. The city was given over to idols –vs. 16
      2. His spirit was provoked in him –ref. Je 20:9

   B. HIS MOTIVATION LED TO ACTION
      1. He reasoned with both Jews and the Gentiles –vs. 17
      2. He continued in the face of mockery –vs. 18

II. **PROPER TEACHING**
   A. BEGIN WHERE THEY ARE
      1. He started with complementary comments –vs. 22-23
      2. They worshiped in ignorance; Paul would now clarify

   B. THE JOURNEY TO THE RESURRECTED SAVIOR
      1. There is one God who created the entire world around us –vs. 24, Ro 1:20-21
      2. He has given us life –vs. 25, ref. Ps 100:3
      3. God is in control of all things –vs. 26, Ro 13:1-ff
      4. Man seeks to worship something greater than himself; most is done in ignorance –vs. 27
      5. He quotes on of their own poets to make a biblical point –vs. 28
         1) They would not have faith in the Scriptures
         2) Therefore Paul used their own material to lead them in the proper direction
      6. God is much more powerful than any image –ref. Isa 44:16-17

III. **PROPER APPLICATION**
   A. REPENTANCE
      1. God once would overlook the ignorance of man
      2. Now the ignorance card can no longer be played for judgment is coming -2Co 5:10
      3. The great assurance is the resurrection of Jesus –vs. 31; Ro 1:4; Re 1:5

   B. REACTION
      1. Some mocked the concept of the resurrection –vs. 32
      2. Others wanted to hear more on the matter –vs. 32

Conclusion:
1. There are many living in spiritual ignorance
   a. Some do not believe in God whatsoever
   b. Others believe they are already in a saved state with Christ –ref. Mt 7:21-23
2. Our part
   a. Preach the truth in love –Ep 4:15
   b. Keep Christ at the center of our message -1Co 2:2