

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #16 -Message of Repentance

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:16-21

Introduction:

1. The gospel message has always provoked mixed reactions.
2. God commands men everywhere to repent!
3. Paul proclaimed the message of repentance to them because...

I. HE WAS MOTIVATED TO SPEAK -17:16-21

A. HIS SPIRIT WAS PROVOKED

1. He saw the city was given over to idols
2. Sin / wickedness should provoke us today (we should never be indifferent to it)
3. We too should be motivated to action

B. HE WAS NOT DISCOURAGED TO SPEAK

1. He was called a “babbler” -vs. 18
 - a. “Babbler” was a term that meant “Seed picker” This depicts a bird pecking at various scattered seeds.
 - b. Paul, in their minds, had gathered little seeds of knowledge.
2. Their desire to listen to Paul -vs. 21
 - a. It was not to ascertain truth or to change their life
 - b. They wanted to hear Paul simply because his words were new
3. We too must never be discouraged to speak in the midst of insults or improper motivation.

II. HE BEGAN WHERE THEY WERE SPIRITUALLY -17:22-29

A. THE “UNKNOWN GOD”

1. There is a great amount of speculation about the “unknown god”, but nothing substantial.
2. Paul sees this as a springboard into the lesson he desires to proclaim unto them

B. THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD

1. He begins with the true God of all creation.
 - a. The Greeks had no such god
 - b. Paul has to establish faith in the Supreme Being first
2. This God created all things including man -Ps 19:1; Ro 1:20, 21
 - a. He quotes one of their own poets Aratus -vs. 28
 - b. His statement is true, but must be applied properly to God -Ge 1:27
3. We must not think of God as gold, silver, or stone!

III. HE LED THEM TO JESUS -17:30-34

A. COMMAND TO REPENT -vs. 30

1. God once overlooked these things, but now the gospel is for all.
2. Judgment is coming when we will each appear before the Living God.
3. Hope and redemption is found only through the resurrected Savior!

B. REACTION FROM THE PEOPLE

1. Some mocked the resurrection from the dead; others desired to hear more.
2. People today will still have various reactions to the gospel. We must not be discouraged, but continue to preach.

Conclusion:

1. There are always opportunities to teach the gospel
2. We must plant the seed and leave the outcome in God's hands -1Co 3:6, 7