

TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN. Acts 17:6

INTRODUCTION: THERE ARE THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE:

1. THOSE WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.
2. THOSE WHO WATCH THINGS HAPPEN
3. THOSE WHO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING.

THE DEVOTED AND DYNAMIC CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY CHURCH REALLY MADE THINGS HAPPEN IN THOSE DAYS OF THE ROM. EMPIRE.

I. THE WORLD NEEDS TURNING UPSIDE DOWN BECAUSE IT IS NOW WRONG SIDE UP.

1. COMMERCIAL CIRCLES

2. CHARACTER

3. PHILOSOPHY, INTELLECT, JUDGMENT

4. RELIGIOUS IDEAS

A. THE WORLD'S RELIGION IS, "DO, AND THOU SHALT LIVE"

B. CHRIST'S RELIGION IS, "BELIEVE, AND THOU SHALT LIVE"

II. THE GOSPEL ALWAYS CREATES A DISTURBANCE

1. IT DID IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE AND IN EVERY AGE OF HISTORY SINCE.

2. IT CREATES A DISTURBANCE IN MEN'S HEARTS.

3. IT CREATES A DISTURBANCE IN MEN'S SOCIAL RELATIONS

A. IN HIS VOCATION

B. IN HIS PLEASURES

C. IN HIS HOME AND FAMILY LIFE

4. ITS OBJECT IS NOT THE SUBVERSION OF THE WORLD,
BUT THE CONVERSION OF THE WORLD;
NOT ITS DESTRUCTION, BUT ITS SALVATION.

5. THIS DISTURBANCE REVEALS A DEEP SEATED HOSTILITY IN
THE HUMAN HEART AGAINST THE GOSPEL.

6. THIS IS AN UNINTENTIONAL TESTIMONY OF ENEMIES TO THE
POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

III. HOW CHRISTIANS TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

1. BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ACTS 2.

(MORE CONSCIOUS OF POWER THAN OF PROBLEMS)

2. BY MILITANT ACTION IN WINNING NEW RECRUITS FOR CHRIST.

3. BY REALIZATION THAT OUR GREATEST FOES ARE ENEMIES
OF OUR OWN HOUSEHOLD.

4. BY ABSOLUTE FAITHFULNESS TO THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL. VS 2,3

In 1830 a man named George Wilson was tried by a U.S. Court in Philadelphia for robbery and murder & sentenced to be hanged. Andrew Jackson, Pres. of the U.S., pardoned him, but Wilson refused the pardon and insisted that it was not a pardon unless he accepted it. The atty. Gen. of the U.S. said the law was silent on the point. The Pres. called on the Supreme Court to decide the point. Chief Justice John Marshall, ablest of lawyers, gave the following decision:

"A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang and he was hanged."

So the atonement of Christ, in making provision for the salvation of the whole world, is beneficial only to those who accept Him as their own personal Saviour."

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