



the upside down series
week fifteen: world changers

1. To turn the world upside down you've got to _____.
2. To turn the world upside down you've got to _____.
3. To turn the world upside down you've got to _____.
4. To turn the world upside down you've got to _____.

Our study is called the Upside Down Series and if you haven't already seen some amazing evidence of how the Holy Spirit turns the world upside down, you will this week!! This week will also take us to Mars Hill where Paul preached one of his greatest sermons. Enjoy the ride.



day one: upside down impact

We are definitely more than half way through our study. Paul is still on his 2nd missionary journey. In today's passage Paul makes it to Thessalonica which becomes a critical church in Paul's life, even naming two letters to them.

Prayerfully read Acts 17:1-9.

exploring the text

1. What did Paul use to reason with the people in Thessalonica in vs. 2?

2. What was Paul seeking to prove to them?

3. What kind of response did Paul get? Describe the types of people who accepted the word of God, and the ones who rejected it.

4. Jealousy is at the heart of the attack against Paul. What did jealousy in the heart of some Jews cause them to do?

5. Write down the accusation against the believers in vs.6. I love, love, love this verse.

6. In what ways had the early church turned the world upside down?

7. Which King did the believers worship?

verse

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.



day two: examining scriptures

From Thessalonica to Berea, God's Spirit continued to lead Paul and Silas. The world was being changed one city at a time.

Today read Acts 17:10-15.

exploring the text

1. In what ways were the Bereans different than the Thessalonians?

2. What verbs describe the response of the Bereans to Paul's teaching?

3. Describe some of the people who believed the Word of God?

4. Were did the opposition against the work in Berea come from?

prayer

Make a commitment to the Lord to learn how to examine His word more closely and regularly in your life. Pay attention to the things you hear, and examine them against God's Word.



day three: idols must go

Paul is alone in Athens. Well, not completely alone. The Holy Spirit is with him and we are about to see one of the greatest moments in the life of his ministry.

Read Acts 17:16-21.

exploring the text

1. What provoked Paul within him in vs. 16?

2. What is a good definition for an idol?

3. How did Paul respond to the wrong that he saw?

4. How often did Paul tackle this issue of idolatry?

interesting fact

Idols are not limited to primitive societies. There are many sophisticated idols too. An idol is a God substitute. Any person or thing that occupies the place which God should occupy is an idol.

5. How did the people respond to Paul's words?

interesting fact

Covetousness is idolatry. Ideologies can be idolatries. So can fame, wealth and power, sex, food, alcohol and other drugs. People can be idols - parents, spouse, children, and friends. The possibilities extend further to work recreation, television, and possessions. Even church, religion and Christian service can be idolized.

6. How did the Athenians typically spend their times?

personal application

7. Do you know any intellectually curious people in your life? How do you tend to approach them?

8. Idols can creep up on you, even as a follower of Jesus Christ. Read Isaiah 44:9-20. What does the Isaiah passage say about idolatry?



day four: Mars Hill

So we come to one of Paul's greatest sermons of all times - the sermon at Mars Hill.

Start your time with the Lord with prayer.

Now read Acts 17:22-34.

exploring the text

interesting fact

Paul's message is comprehensive. He proclaimed God as creator, sustainer, ruler father and judge. He emphasized the greatness of God, not only as the beginning and the end of all things, but as the One to whom we owe our beings and to whom we must give account.

1. Describe Paul's approach in Athens.
2. What 5 main points does Paul make about God?
3. Paul spoke to the Athenians about God as creator. Why is that such a critical point to believe?
4. How does Paul call the Athenians to repent in vs. 29-31?



day five: personal reflection

Begin your time with Prayer.

We've completed Acts 17. Why don't you read Colossians 1:9-23 today and take some time to reflect on God's greatness.

personal application

1. Write a short prayer worshiping God for who He is.

verse

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2. Jot down a couple of ways your understanding of who God is has grown throughout this study.

