

LESSON NO. 17 - Please read Acts 17:1-34 and Genesis 5:1-32 + Genesis 6:1-12 **Theme:** The soon return of Jesus Christ! Because all men have only one individual life on earth, God, by His declared promise, **MUST** be made known to all people during their lifetime on earth. - Romans 1:18-31 . . [v 19] **“that they are without excuse”**.

- Romans 10:14-15 **How then shall they call on Him** in whom **they have not believed?** And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
- Acts 17:5-6 and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them [Paul, Silas, Timothy], they dragged **Jason and some brethren** to the rulers of the city, crying out, **“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**

Question: What makes men like Paul, Silas, Timothy, Jason and their fellow Christians willing to face this type of persecution?

Answer: Love! Love for Jesus Christ which gives birth to love of our neighbors which empowers the Christian to love one’s enemies. - Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Question: What did Enoch, Noah, Isaiah and Paul have in common? What command and what passion made them relentlessly proclaim Truth through all afflictions and persecutions?

Answer: They were CALLED and SENT! God is pouring out that very same mercy to lost humanity through us to our generation. These faithful men heard and obeyed God’s command to [paraphrased] “Go, and tell this people [your generation] turn from you evil ways. **God will soon come in judgment** to convict and destroy all the unrighteous from off the earth.”

- Enoch. Jude 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied** about these men also, saying, **“Behold, the Lord comes** with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”
- Noah. Genesis 6:13-22 And God said to Noah, **“The end of all flesh has come before Me,** for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, **I will destroy them with the earth. . . Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him,** so he did.
- Isaiah 6:8-11 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: **“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”** Then I said, **“Here am I! Send me.”** And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ “Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.” Then I said, “Lord, how long?” And He answered: “Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. **But yet a tenth will be in it.**

- Paul. Acts 17:30-33 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because **He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained**. He has given assurance of this to all by **raising Him from the dead**. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.” So Paul departed from among them.

Question: Do we have the same command and equal passion as the men in today’s Lesson to **“Go! And Proclaim”** the resurrected Jesus Christ who will soon return in judgment to forever separate mankind into their eternal dwelling place?

- Luke 24:46-48 Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.

Our generation is **surely equal in depravity and violence** as was Noah’s generation! How does this fact shape our thinking each day? What are we going to do with Jesus’ clear warning in Luke 17 and 1 Peter 3?

- Luke 17:26-30 And as it was **in the days of Noah**, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.
- 1 Peter 3:4-6 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, **but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly.

Question: Is your house built upon the rock of Christ Jesus and your love for Him? Will your anchor hold when the storms of life assail you and the soon coming of the Great Tribulation on earth?

- Hebrews 6:18-20 that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Will you be ready when Jesus returns to save and take His family from off the earth just as He saved Noah and his family? How about your family and your friends? Have you been a **faithful preacher of righteousness to them** as Enoch and Noah were to their generation?

What manner of people ought we to be in our generation? Paul declared what this faithful living for Christ and proclaiming Christ looks like in Colossians 3.

- Colossians 3:1-10 **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, **then you also will appear with Him in glory.** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

Thus, we should go and do likewise! **Live** for Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and **Proclaim** the truth of Christ to all by the same power of the Holy Spirit.

What do we proclaim? This is what Paul proclaimed:

- Acts 17:23 I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, **Him I proclaim to you:**
- 1 Corinthians 1:23 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but **we preach Christ crucified**, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- Romans 3:23 For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

[Proclaim that **Jesus is returning soon**, certainly for everyone, either by the individual's death or by the rapture described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18] during their individual lifetime on earth]

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus **we shall always be with the Lord.** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

This is what Peter proclaimed:

- Acts 2:22-24 **Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him** in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
- Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”
- Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of

the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

This is what Jesus proclaimed: “**I go!**”, then He commanded, “**You go!**”

- John 14:1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwellings; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.** And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**”

What are we doing to proclaim to our generation about Jesus Christ? Have we heard the Holy Spirit repeat Jesus’ command?

- Matthew 28:19-20 “[You] **Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Will You Go? We may not be called like Isaiah, Peter or Paul but we can like Jason and these other sweet proclaimers of the One True God and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ:

1. Naiman's wife maid 2 Kings 5:1-4 tell where to get help.
2. Mary John 20:18 Mary...told them "I have seen the Lord!"
3. Woman at the well...went away into town..."Can this be the Christ?" John 4:29
4. Healed demon possessed man, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you." John 5:19

Matthew 10: 32 “Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

We recognize persecution will also come to us as it did to Paul when we proclaim our love for Jesus Christ. who died and took our place in death. Are we so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ that we cannot help but Tell Somebody about Him today?

One way we can tell others the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ is to write down the day/ events of our salvation just as Paul recorded his own “new-birth” in Acts 9. Please send your Story to us so we may rejoice with you and glorify God’s great work!

We love to receive your questions. Your questions can be sent to write2stm@gmail.com or WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com. All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis