

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO. 18 - Please read Acts 17:1-34; Numbers 9:17-19; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16; **Theme:** All men everywhere in all generations are without excuse and are called to repent. Romans 1:18-31, and **“that they are without excuse”**. (v 19).

This seventeenth chapter of Acts is so important it seems we still need to continue to camp at this place until the cloud moves and we have liberty to proceed on Paul's journeys. Which brings this verse to mind!

- Numbers 9:17-19 Whenever **the cloud was taken up** from above the tabernacle, **after that the children of Israel would journey**; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord and did not journey.

It is nearly impossible to pick out a single verse and declare it to be the most important or most critical one of a chapter, but, we would be unwilling to declare any verses in Acts 17 to be more important than verses 30-31.

- Acts 17:30-31 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.”

This great unshakeable truth follows hard after Paul's clear presentation of the saving Good News of Jesus Christ in response to the Athenians worship of The Unknown God.

As we have learned in earlier lessons, God is ALWAYS speaking to ALL humanity from birth through Creation and Conscience.

- Acts 17:26-28 And **He has made from one blood every nation** of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that **they should seek the Lord**, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us**; for in Him we live and move and have our being.

Question: Exactly how does God make Himself known that all men are without excuse, (Romans 1:19) and need to seek after Him?

Answer: Tozer, A W (1897-1963), *The Voice of God Speaking*, pgs 9-10, Camp Hill, PA, Christian Publications 1992.

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The creative voice of God is constantly sounding throughout the creation is a truth forgotten by modern Christianity. Yet it was His word that He called the world into being and it is by His word that all things are held together. It is the still voice of God in the heart of every human being that renders everyone culpable before the bar of God's judgment and convicts of sin even those who have never been exposed to the written Word.

There is a light that lights every man that comes into the world. - John 1:9-10 That was the true Light [Jesus] which, coming into the world, **gives light to every man**. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

It is sin against light that destroys men, NOT the rejection of Christ, **though the rejection of Christ leaves** the sinner desolate in his sin and **shuts him out forever from the forgiving love of God**.

"It is written that Christ **upholds all things** by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3) and the word that upholds all things is the power-filled voice of God sounding vibrantly throughout the creation. The Bible is not, as some appear to think, God's last will and testament; it is, rather, the written expression of the mind of the Living God, inactive until the same breath that first inspired it breathes on it again.

In the Scriptures God has caused to be written a full and sufficient body of truth. Holy men were moved by the Holy Spirit to record the words God knew would be best suited to teach doctrine, and to reprove, correct and instruct in righteousness - 2 Timothy 3:16. The point I make here is that if the living voice of God were not speaking in the world and in the hearts of men the written Word could have no real meaning for us. **Because God is speaking in His world we are able to hear Him speak in His Word**. AW Tozer (1897-1973)

We learn very vividly from Acts 17 that the Athenians, like ALL mankind, had been given light and knew that a Creator God existed to whom they owed allegiance. But, the true Creator God, was unknown to them because they chose to **make up a god from their own imagination**.

- Romans 3:1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because **to them were committed the words of God**.

Question: What do we declare to our generation? **Answer:** The very words of God.

Paul and his companions declared the very words of God which had been written down and preserved to their generation. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, He superintended the inspiration of the final written words of God which we call the New Testament.

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Both the Old Jewish writings and the New Testaments writing confirm each other as God's speaking revealed voice written down in document form for preservation. God's voice speaking through Creation and Conscience confirms His inspired written words to give all people since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to be able to KNOW the full revelation of God to His creation.

Thus, it has always been. All men are responsible for the Light they have been given. Since Jesus came to reveal God in the flesh, all mankind will be judged based upon what response they have to this revelation.

- Acts 17:30-31 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.**"

We possess the knowledge that all men will be judged. Are we moved with compassion to Tell Somebody This Very Day about one's only eternal hope in Jesus? Even if it means persecution?

We have seen the evidence through written testimonies helping LIGHT to be brought into other's lives. Please send your testimony of your transformed life for it has the potential to be the catalyst to another's salvation, and you will store up more eternal treasure!

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