

Pastor's Ponderings

by

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"Turn Your World Upside Down"

2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. 6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,..."

Acts 17:2-6 ESV

What is life like in your world? I would venture to say that it is nothing like it was for the first century Christians. Christians are persecuted in the 21st Century. But that's not my point. My point is, "What are you doing with your faith to be accused of turning the world upside down?"

Remember the old question, "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Jesus did not give us the Great Option. Jesus Christ gave us the Great Commission, so that we could and would turn our world upside down (see Matt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

People need to hear the message of the Gospel. Men and women, boys and girls, need to hear, "Jesus Christ was God in the flesh." They need to hear, "Jesus Christ was

crucified for their sins." He was sinless, but He bore their sin. People need to hear, "Jesus Christ was buried in a tomb." It was sealed, and guards were posted to make sure it was not disturbed. People need to hear, "God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He is alive!" Are you going to tell them? If you don't, who will?

People need a Savior. People need to know Jesus saves. People need Jesus Christ because He is the only One who can save. Don't make it any harder than God intended it to be. God just wants you to be yourself, use the gifts He has given you, and share the "Good News." It really is a simple message. Don't complicate it with your "hang-ups and hold backs." Just share it and let God do the rest.

Easter is April 12th. The Apostle Paul said in 1Corinthians 2:2, "***For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.***" And he says in 1 Corinthians 4:10, "***We are fools for Christ's sake...***" (NASB) Why not ask someone to come to Easter services with you? Why not invite them to hear the Good News...the Best News in the world? Why not, like the Apostle Paul, determine to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified? Why not invite them to Easter services? And lunch. And you buy!!! Foolish? Maybe, but you might just have a guest with you for church and dinner!!!

The best evangelist I've ever known was a three year old named Hanna. She would say to friends and family, "Will you come to church with me? If you do, you can sit next to me!" She invited. They came. They heard. They believed. They were saved. Their world was turned upside down by a three year old little girl! In her own way, she loved them enough to invite them to meet the Savior.

Do you love enough? Can you use your God-given gifts to help others find the Savior? Will you turn your world upside down? May it be said of you!!!