

Acts, Part 17

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 9/02/20

Introduction Summary

In this lesson we will cover Acts chapter 17. Paul had a strong desire to preach to the Jews, his own people. But God anointed him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. We will study a part of Paul's life and see that he was a human being just like us. He had both good and bad traits, yet God used him mightily.

- I. **Acts 17:1-2:** Paul spent three weeks (three Sabbaths) with the Jews.
 - A. The gospel has to get out beyond the Jews (Acts 13:46-47).
 - B. This is what God said to Paul (Acts 26:16-18).
 - C. Paul is an apostle to the Gentiles (Eph. 3:1-8).
 - D. Paul was a human being with faults (Rom. 10:1).
 - E. God isn't moved by what you want, badly.
 - F. There is that after the flesh we wish to do, but we must do what God says, because Jesus is our Master and Lord.
- II. **Acts 17:4:** Some Jews believed, but there were greater results with the Greeks.
 - A. Paul's predominant ministry was to the Gentiles.
 - B. My assignment, as an apostle, is to minister in Europe.
 - C. Success is doing what God told you to do with all your might.
- III. **Acts 17:5-6:** Again, the Jews are envious.
 - A. They wanted to convert the Gentiles to Judaism.
 - B. Paul comes along and the Gentiles convert to Christianity.
- IV. **Acts 17:7:** This is the same as what the Jews said about Jesus (Mat. 27:11).
 - A. The good fight of faith is keeping your confession that Jesus as Lord, even in front of the government (1 Tim. 6:11-13; Acts 16:20-21).
 - B. He used Jesus as an example.
 - C. When WOF filed suit concerning our first amendment rights, that was us fighting the good fight of faith.
- V. **Acts 17:8-12:** Paul's grace (anointing) is to the Greeks. Chapters 15-18 of Acts was three years of ministry work.
- VI. **Acts 17:13-21:** Today only 30,000 of 30 million are Christians in Athens.
 - A. Paul sees that the city is full of idolatry.

- B. The Epicureans lived solely by the appetite of the flesh.
 - C. The Stoicks lived by whatever happens is supposed to happen.
 - D. The Athenians were sitting around debating about the current events.
- VII. **Acts 17:22-26:** Paul stands up on Mars' hill and ministers to them.
- A. God has a time clock. We must understand what time it is.
 - B. There are appointed times and bounds of men's habitations.
 - C. No man knows the exact time or hour that Jesus is returning.
 - D. Look at the fig tree and know that we're in the season (Mat. 24:32-36).
 - E. There are things that must first be fulfilled (Mat. 5:18).
- VIII. **Acts 17:27-28:** This is a huge revelation to those people listening.
- IX. **Acts 17:29-31:** God was merciful to man, and now it's time to repent.
- A. Jesus will pass judgment on mankind (Rom. 2:16).
 - B. Do not get distracted by the cares of the world (Mark 4:19).
 - C. Focus on what God wants you to do.
 - D. Satan delights in distractions, because it weakens the effect of the Word.
 - E. We want to be the one in good ground (Mark 4:20).
- X. **Acts 17:32-34:** These were the first believers in Greece.
- A. Nearly 1900 years later, not far from Mars' hill, there is a church still preaching the same gospel, and it is funded by Word of Faith members!
 - B. That is where God told us to go. Therefore, we do what God says.
- XI. Paul was a normal man just like us.
- A. Paul was led by his emotions.
 - B. He was in strife with Barnabas, and it ended in separation.
 - C. Paul and Peter are the most important people in the Bible, next to Jesus (Who is the most important) and Abraham.
 - D. Paul was sometimes hot-headed, but God used him mightily.
 - E. Just as God used Paul, He will use you in whatever He's called you to do.
 - F. Paul forgot about his authority over devils (2 Cor. 12:7-9).
 - G. You don't want to be like Samson (Heb. 2:1; Jud. 16:20).
- XII. Every time you hear the Word, listen as though it's the first time. That's how you grow.

Closing Summary

We ought not to put Paul on a pedestal as though he had special power to crucify his fleshly desires. He had likes, dislikes and preferences just like us. He sinned just as we have. Yet God used him, mightily. He is one of the most important people in the Bible. Although he fell, he eventually grew up and lined up with God's will and God performed miracles through his ministry. Seeing that God did it for Paul, He will do it for you as you pursue His calling.