

Paul's Preaching on Mars Hill

Acts 17:22-34

Introduction:

- A. Paul was in a strange city with time on hands. (v.16). - Can you relate?
 - 1. Many would spend time site seeing and people watching - materialistically.
 - 2. Few would spend the time assessing the spiritual character of city.
- B. Paul spent some of his time preaching a great sermon on Mar's Hill.
 - 1. We can greatly profit from a study of this great sermon.
 - 2. We plan to discuss several particulars of this great sermon.

Discussion:

I. The Circumstances Leading To The Sermon.

- A. Paul's provocation by error. (v. 16).
 - 1. A very religious people. (v.22)
 - 2. A very idolatrous city. (v. 23)
- B. Paul's proclamation of truth. (vv. 17-21).
 - 1. To worshipers in the synagogues. (v. 17).
 - 2. To philosophers in the marketplace. (v. 18).

II. The Contents Included In The Sermon.

- A. **God who made all men.**
 - 1. Made man's habitation does not need man to make Him one. (v.24, 26)
 - 2. Made man in His image, does not need man to make anything in His image. (v.25).
 - 3. Made man of one blood for all nations. (v. 26).
 - 4. Made man to seek after Him. (v. 27).
 - 5. Made man close to Him. (vv. 27).
 - a. So close that in Him we live and move and have our being. (v. 28).
 - b. So close that we are his offspring. (vv. 28-29).
 - c. So close that we ought to learn something of His nature by looking at ourselves. (v. 29).
- B. **God who commands all men.** (v. 30).
 - 1. All men need repentance. (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8,10).
 - 2. All men must repent and meet God's terms of pardon.
 - a. Alien sinners. (Acts 2:38; Luke 24:47; Mk. 16:15,16; Matt. 28:18-20).
 - b. Erring Christians. (Acts 8:22; Rev. 2:5; 1 John 1:9).
- C. **God who judges all men.** (v. 31)
 - 1. He will judge us on an appointed day. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:10-12).
 - 2. He will judge us through Jesus Christ. (cf. Matt. 25:31-32).
 - a. As sure as resurrection.
 - b. As sure as word of God. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:5-7).

III. The Consequences Following The Sermon.

- A. Some mocked: Their philosophy stronger to them than historical evidence.
- B. Some procrastinated: Put off making a decision about it.
- C. Some believed: Such faith includes obedience in Scriptures. (cf. Acts 16:31ff)
- D. All heard same sermon, by same preacher, at same time: Yet, reacted differently.

Conclusion:

- A. If one has time on hands, should use it wisely.
- B. If one sees an opportunity to teach he should use it.
- C. If one sees error he should do all in his power to correct it.
- D. If one hears adverse reaction to sermon, it may not be the preacher or the sermon's fault.
- E. If one is ignorant he must hear the truth and obey it, because he will be judged by it.