

Three Typical Reactions to the Truth

Acts 17:32-34

Introduction:

- A. Paul told the Athenians the truth about:
 - 1. Their religion (vv. 24-30).
 - 2. Their need to repent (v. 30).
 - 3. Their appointment with judgment (v.31).
- B. Church must always support the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).
 - 1. God equipped it to that end (Eph 4:11-16).
 - 2. God expects it to support it morally and financially (cf. Phil. 4:10-17; 2 Tim. 4:16).
- C. Reaction to truth is almost always mixed:
 - 1. The Parable of the Sower.
 - 2. The reactions of the Athenians were typical:

Discussion:

I. Some React with *Indignation* - “Mocked” (v. 32).

- A. People show indignation differently.
 - 1. Some with violence (Acts 16:19-23).
 - 2. Some with slander (Rom. 3:8; 2 Cor. 10:9,10).
 - 3. Some with ridicule (v. 32).
- B. People show indignation for different reasons.
 - 1. Pride - do not want to admit wrong.
 - 2. Greed - do not want to give up gain (Acts 16:19).
 - 3. Comfort - like things left alone just as they are.

II. Some React with *Indecision* - “We Will Hear ... Again” (v. 32).

- A. Some have honest doubts — need more information.
- B. Some are merely brushing it aside.
- C. Some are needlessly procrastinating.
- D. Some are “ever learning, but never coming to knowledge of truth” (2 Tim. 3:6,7).

III. Some React with *Inspiration* - “Joined Him and Believed..” (V. 34).

- A. Some may be inspired to accept only temporarily (cf. Matt: 13:20-21).
 - 1. Excited by moment.
 - 2. Easily influenced by anything.
 - 3. Fail to count the cost.
- B. Others are inspired by the weight of the evidence and obey.
 - 1. Obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22).
 - 2. Continue in the truth (John 8:31,33).

Conclusion:

- A. We who teach and support truth need to understand these reactions.
- B. We need to examine our own reaction when confronted with evidence.