

Turning the World Upside Down

Acts 17:1-6

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Introduction – How did the early church turn the world upside down? *Jimmy Chapman*

A supernatural power was loose among them that healed the sick, drove out demons, twice blinded its opponents and made hypocrites fall dead on the spot. Within one generation, only by word of mouth, everyone within the known limits of civilization was reached with the Gospel! Incredible!

I. They turned the world upside down through the power they possessed.

1. They did not rely on persuasive arguments (1 Corinthians 2:1-4).
2. They did not rely on personal ability (v. 3).
3. It was not Paul's ability but the Holy Spirit's ability (v. 4).
4. It is the Holy Spirit that must convict, convince, and convert the sinner.
5. The Holy Spirit is present in every believer, prominent in some believers, but He was pre-eminent in the early believers.

II. They turned the world upside down through the praying they practiced.

1. Every problem the early church encountered, there was but one response -PRAYER.
2. They were confident in the ability of prayer (Acts 4:17,18, 23, 24; 12:1-5, 6,7).
3. Prayer does not fit us for the greater works: prayer is the greater work.
4. Samuel, the great intercessor (1 Samuel 12:23).

III. They turned the world upside down through the person they preached.

1. The all-consuming desire of the early church was to introduce others to the Jesus Christ of the cross (Acts 2:22-24).
2. Getting the message of the cross out is the task of the church (1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2).

IV. They turned the world upside down through the price they paid.

1. Many of the early church were martyrs for their service of Christ.
2. People were willing to die the most gruesome deaths for it, or to lose their property and possessions.
3. The measure of the importance of Christ is manifested in the measure to which you will go to make him known to others.
4. What a contrast with the Christianity of today, which can't break the American culture, struggles with worldliness, and knows little of the miraculous.