

The Spread Of The Gospel Acts 17:6

When Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue in Thessalonica, “Explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead” (Acts 17:3), he was accused by jealous Jews of having “upset (also stirred up, excited or unsettled) the world” (Acts 17:6.)

Did Paul “upset” the world by what he taught or was the jealousy the Jews felt what really “upset” them? (Matthew 27:18.)

What affect did the spread of the gospel have on the world? What affect should the gospel have on the Lord’s church today?

I. What Affect Did The Spread Of The Gospel Have On The Ancient World?

A. Jesus taught His disciples about not coming to bring peace in this world, but a sword and that “A man’s enemies will be the members of his household.” (Matthew 10:34-38.) Why did Jesus teach this? Because one cannot sit by and be unaffected or unconcerned by and about the gospel! (Acts 4:11, 12.)

B. The affect gospel preaching had in the First Century drives home the point of how it was seen by the people of this world:

1. A negative impact was experienced by those who could see their livelihoods threatened by its truth! (Acts 19:20, 23-28.)

2. A positive impact was experienced by those who were “Pierced to the heart” by the truth that was boldly proclaimed! (Acts 2:37; 6:7; 17:34.)

C. Even King Agrippa came so close to conversion by his own admission! (Acts 26:22-29.)

D. God opened the access to His church and kingdom to the Gentiles and this provoked the Jews to jealousy who realized what they had lost by rejecting Jesus! (Romans 11:5-15.)

II. What Affect Should The Gospel Have On The Lord’s Church Today?

A. Is there even a possibility that those who are in the church could grow complacent and take their salvation for granted and actually then fall away? Yes! (Hebrews 6:4-8.)

B. Instead of taking our addition to the body of Christ for granted, we must follow the example that was set forth by our ancient brothers and sisters who were scattered due to persecution! (Acts 8:4.)

- C. Did Paul give up and throw in the towel or raise the white flag of surrender when he faced his hardships? No! (II Corinthians 12:9-10.)

- D. The gospel is in as great a need to be spread today as it was then! (Acts 20:20.)
We cannot allow ourselves to be lulled into complacency—we must reach out to this community to respond to those who God is sending our way! (Acts 13:44-49.)