**TURNING THE WORLD THE UPSIDE DOWN**

**TEXT: ACT 17:1-9**

**Acts 17:6, “And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;**

**INTRODUCTION**

This was Paul on his third missionary journey with his crew members, working together as team to get the Gospel out to the world. And they went to the Thessalonians, and the word of God was preached to them, many received the word of God, and it was turned down by the Jewish who did not believe in the message and the messengers sent to them.

The message of the cross has been hated by so many since the beginning, it is not a new threat.

But the part of the Scripture I will focus on is verse 6, "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;"

Some people said that they did not turned the world upside, I believe in literal interpretation of this verse which means that they turned the world upside down for Jesus.

1Thessalonians 1:6-8

"And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything."

We can see that the Thessalonians got the vision of turning the World by spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus all around the World.

We can also have the same testimony as a church from the outside, but churches of God are preoccupied with so many things that hindering us from reaching the testimony the early Christians had.

**HOW?**

**1. SELFLESS SERVICE**

The early Christians were selfless Christian in their service, they were not thinking about their interest, pocket, fame, and glory. They were working together to achieve the main assignment of the church.

They sacrifice their time, talent, money, and all they’ve got to see others come to Christ

Acts 4:32, “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

The main cause of trouble in the churches today is self self self. We allowed our self to get into the picture where God needs to be, and then we complained that we do not have experience the presence and the power of God in our lives. God never work through a church that is driven by self centered people.

They do not see each other as means of getting to where they want to go, but they see each other as partners in the ministry.

The divisions in Christianity are caused by selfishness and ambition. Because certain ones are ambitious to have their own empire, they neglect God’s choice. Their ambition is to have a kingdom to satisfy their own selfish desire.

Until we let go of self, we will never be able to turn the World upside down for Christ.

Among pastors, we want to have as many people working "under us". And not realizing that it is not about us, it is all about HIM.

Ill- My family is going to Akure to start a church in January 2018. Akure has no independent Baptist like Ogbomoso, but humanly speaking we can stay here in Ogbomoso while others do not have any Bible believing churches, and how then can we reach Nigeria with the Gospel?

All men are not drawn to him because we are getting in His way. We are lifting ourselves up, instead of His name. We are building for the things of this world instead of the things of God. Turning the World upside down through our selfless sacrifice, in another word, ready to deny self.

Moses, the man that said NO to God.

Ill- When Annanias and Sapphira want to get in the way. God took them out of the way.

**2. GODLY EXAMPLES**

**1Thessalonians 1:7, "So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia."**

Nothing on earth can replace godly testimony. Verse 8 says, "but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything."

If this church is going to turn this city upside, every one of us must have a godly example everywhere not only in church.

What a blessed thing it would be if our church life were so full of the Spirit of Christ that the ministers would not need to say anything! “By whose preaching,” a lad was asked, “were you converted?” “By no one’s preaching,” was the reply, “but by my Aunt Mary’s living.”

A. Every aspect of our lives

B. Every place we touch.

We need to walk the talk, because you walk talks louder than your talk talks.

 What a wonderful testimony from the outside world that the early Christians had, "These that have turned the upside down are come thither"

1Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

As a preacher of the Gospel, the Bible also admonishes me to be an ensamples to the flock not a lord.

**3. BY FAITH**

Not only the Thessalonians whose faith was spoken through the world, but the church at Rome too.

Romans 1:8  First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Faith is not only for salvation, but also ongoing provision victorious life.

**“Without Faith, it is impossible to please God”**

A. We need faith in the midst of persecution, and trials.

The apostles were imprisoned, tortured, and went hungry, but they were not stopped by those things.

Luke 18:8  I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

B. We need faith to step out of our comfort zone.

It is easy to do things when we are really convenient, and it is easy to fulfill His will when everything is already cooked for us, but it takes a great courage and a bold step of faith to want to leave our comfort zone.

C. We need faith to start clearing the path that has never been cleared.

And also that we cheerfully proclaim, "Here am I Lord, send me"

**Conclusion:**

No wonder that they had a clean testimony among all people all over the world, and it was spoken throughout the world.

The church at Thessalonica had godly examples

The church at Rome had great Faith

The church at Jerusalem had a selfless sacrifice.

What about you?

What about Berean Independent Baptist Church?

I pray that God will use our selfless service, Godly example, and faith to turn the World upside down for Jesus Christ.