

Are You Listening?

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Introduction

1. Text Acts 28:23-31
2. The Great Commission imposes upon God's people the responsibility to teach and preach God's Truth Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47
3. The hearer has responsibility also. Mark 16:15-16; Luke 8:18
4. Whether or not the hearer believes depends on the attitude he has toward God's truth.
 - a. One must believe that the truth is from God. John 1:17; 17:17; 7:17
 - b. One must love the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
5. Let us look at the message and their reaction to this message.

II Discussion

- A. Paul preached the kingdom of God. Acts 28:23, 31
 1. Acts begins by emphasizing the importance of the kingdom Acts 1:3
 2. The kingdom came with power on the day of Pentecost. Mark 9:1 Acts 1:8; 2:1
 3. The kingdom is made up of those who have accepted the truth of Jesus as King.
 - a. They have been baptized. Acts 2:38
 - b. They were faithful to the Lord Acts 2:42
 4. Paul preached the same thing Philip did Acts 8:12
- B. Paul sought to persuade the Jews concerning Jesus. Acts 28:23
 1. Paul preached that the death of Christ was necessary for man's salvation. Acts 17:3; Romans 5:6-9
 2. Paul preached the resurrection of Christ as a historical fact! Acts 17:3, Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 3. Paul preached that Jesus was the Christ the anointed of God. Acts 17:3
 4. Paul preached the impending judgment with Christ as the Judge, Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11
- C. The reaction of the hearers.
 1. Remember this is recorded by the Holy Spirit so this is His appraisal of their actions.
 2. The context of Isaiah will help understand this passage. Isaiah 44
 - a. The people were determined to have their idols. Vs 9-20
 - b. They had close their eyes to the truth of God. Vs 18
 - c. Their own heart had produced this deception Vs 20
 3. Even in Christ's day men refused to listen to His teaching. Matthew 13:14-16
 - a. The hearers closed their eyes and ears Matthew 13:15
 - b. Therefore they did not understand the saving truth of the Lord. Vs 15
 - c. Consequently, they were not saved, or healed vs 15
 - d. The good soil is the person with a good and honest heart. Vs 23; Luke 8:15
 4. Paul's hearers also fulfilled this prophecy. Acts 28:25-27

- a. The problem was not with the truth!
- b. The problem was the attitude of the hearers.
5. Some who heard did believe Acts 28:24
 - a. When the soil is good, the Word produces fruit. Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15
 - b. The power is in the Word. Romans 1:16
 - c. The hearers must be receptive to the Gospel 1 Thessalonians 2:13

III Conclusion

1. If one is willing to do God's will he will know what God's will is. John 7:17 He will take the time to find out!
2. If one is determined not to do what God requires but rather what the individual himself wants to do, God will let this person believe a lie. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
3. If any man hath an heart let him hear. Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22
4. Are you listening?

Source: Challenge of the commission, by Tom Holland sermon on Acts.