

“Turning the World Upside Down”

Acts 16:35-17:15, ESV

Introduction: Can you name a handful of people who have legitimately *turned the world upside down*? As you think about it, certainly at the very top of the list is Jesus Christ. In the text this morning, Paul and Silas are labelled as “men who have turned the world upside down...” We should give some thought as to why this statement is made about these men. What turns the world upside down?

General Apostolic Mission Pattern: (as observed frequently in the book of Acts)

- 1). Enter the city
- 2). Go to the synagogue
- 3). Declare/teach the Scriptures
- 4). Manage the fallout (some were converted; some revolted against them and stirred up the masses)
- 5). When necessary, move on...

The Takeaway: The Word of God preached without compromise always creates tension and division. Why? Truth divides. I heard a man once say, “It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error.”

This Pattern in THESSALONICA (17:1-9).

The Takeaway: There is no middle ground where the gospel of Jesus Christ is concerned. You are in Christ or not. You are bound for heaven or you are not. You are saved or you are not. You love Christ or you do not. You receive Jesus or you reject Jesus. It has been this way for thousands of years! What about YOU?

This Pattern in BEREIA (17:10-15).

What Turns the World Upside Down? What will turn YOUR world upside down?

- ❖ The Word of God preached.
- ❖ The Word of God examined.

Why? You will not remain the same. How has faithful preaching changed you? How has your personal study of the Bible transformed who you are?