

## **Message Guide**

### **Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down**

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 1 – A Dynamic or Dying Church

Acts 11:19 – 24; 13:1 - 3

1. Read Acts 11:19 – 24 & 13:1 – 3
  
2. On the morning of Pentecost there were about \_\_\_ disciples.  
 By evening of that day there were \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Within weeks that number had grown to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 What does that signify? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 What caused this to happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. This initial growth took place in Jerusalem. What happened next?  
 Read: Acts 9:31, 16:5 and 19:20  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. So, the church began in \_\_\_\_\_, an outpost of the Roman Empire;  
 spread north into \_\_\_\_\_; west to the island of \_\_\_\_\_; North West to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_; West to \_\_\_\_\_, and eventually to \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
  
5. The early disciples gained a certain reputation. What was it?  
 Read Acts 17:6 from the NIV and if possible from the English Standard Version.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. From the first 7 chapters of Acts, where was all the activity of the church?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What do you think caused this total lack of any activity outside of Jerusalem?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. So what happened next? God \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.  
What was the catalyst of this? Read Acts 8:1

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9. Looking beyond the surface, what had **really** happened here?  
\_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ the church to \_\_\_\_\_

10. The New Testament church was a P \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

11. What was holding the early church back? On whom was their focus?

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12. How does this contrast with the actual instructions given to that early church by Jesus Himself? Read: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47 and Acts 1:8

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### **Final Thoughts**

Although the church at Jerusalem will always be important,  
from Acts 13 onwards we witness the decline of the church in Jerusalem  
(because it lost its cutting edge)  
and contrast that with the dynamism of the fledgling church in Antioch  
to where control of the church passed.

Becoming comfortable greatly hinders growth.  
Sometimes God has to allow persecution to jolt the church out of its comfortable  
lethargy and back to being obedient to its calling.

**This should serve as a warning to us all - individually and as a church.  
God will bless any movement, or church, as long as it operates on His terms**

**for His objectives and by His means.**

### **And one final, Final Thought:**

Believers in the book of Acts are never called 'Followers of Jesus'.

This somewhat popular title comes from the Gospels,  
but this description became redundant on the day of Pentecost.

In the Gospels, yes, people followed behind Jesus;

but since Pentecost we are now **In Christ**;  
baptized by the Holy Spirit we are now **united to Him**.

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 2 – A Three Dimensional Growth Pattern

#### Acts 13:1 - 5

1. Read Acts 13:1 - 5
  
2. Do you recall about how many missionaries there are around the world?  


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3. How do you define what a 'missionary' is?  
 Someone who has crossed into another  
 C \_\_\_\_\_; possibly another C \_\_\_\_\_; learned another L \_\_\_\_\_,  
 to take the G \_\_\_\_\_, or to equip the L \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ to take  
 the G \_\_\_\_\_ to their people.
  
4. All of this missionary activity started with the Apostle Paul.  
 How many missionary trips did Paul take, and for how long did each last?  


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5. Because Paul had gained such a reputation, what was said of him and his  
 associate during their second missionary journey? Acts 17:6  


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6. There are 3 dimensions that work together in an effective church which we see  
 operating together in Acts 13:1 – 5
  - a. The Role of the H \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:3
  - b. The Role of the C \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:1, 2 & 4
  - c. The Role of the W \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:4 - 5
  
7. **The Holy Spirit** is the central player in this story.  
 What is it that the Holy Spirit does?
  - a. He S \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 13:2
  - b. He S \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 13:2

c. He S \_ \_ \_ \_ Acts 13:4

8. **The Role of the Church**

Why was the church at Antioch uniquely equipped for this Gentile mission?

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9. What was the church doing that is so significant? Read and consider Acts 13:2

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10. **The Role of the Workers**

Read again Acts 13:3 & 4. Under whose authority did these workers function?

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11. These were not workers 'for' God, but rather workers 'WITH' god.  
Read 2 Corinthians 6:1 .... we are 'fellow workers', called to be **workers together with God.**

**Final Thoughts**

The early church knew that they needed to be looking GODWARD first  
before looking OUTWARD.

They were task oriented, but only after being God oriented first

The work of God **MUST** come out of communion with God.

When our first focus is on GOD through our communion with Him – things happen!

The Church of Jesus Christ is a church in submission.

- Submit to **the word of God.**
- Submit to the **Headship of Christ**
- Submit to the **guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

**Then get on with the task!**

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 3 – Connecting The Dots

#### Acts 13:4 - 52

1. This is an unusual study in that in this message Charles is summarizing the first of Paul missionary journeys. Read Acts 13:4 - 6
  
2. Three of the features of this first missionary adventure were –
  - a. Human beings working together with \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Experiencing His P \_\_\_\_\_ and P \_\_\_\_\_ at work.
  - c. Seeing hundreds of lives T \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Let's Summarize the Journey
  - a. From where did the journey start?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Where was their first destination? Read Acts 11:19  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Where did they land and what happened there. Read Acts 13:6  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Traveling across the island from east to west where did they stop next?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. While in Paphos what else of significance happened. Read Acts 13:9 – 12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Where did they go next? Read Acts 13:13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
What happened here that was of great significance?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - g. They visited several cities in Turkey. Read Acts 13:14 – 52
  - h. After Barnabus and Paul 'shook the dust from their feet' and moved on, where did they go next. Read Acts 14:1 – 7  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did they do here, and what was the consequence of that?

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- i. Barnabus and Paul now found themselves in LYSTRA.  
Read Acts 14:8 – 20 What happened there?
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- j. Finally, undaunted, they went to a place called DERBE where Acts 14:21 tells us that 'they preached the gospel ..... and won a large number to Christ.

**WOW! What a missionary adventure!!!!**

As well as preaching the Gospel – and paying a heavy price for that – what else did Barnabus and Paul do on this trip?

- They S \_\_\_\_\_ the B \_\_\_\_\_
- They W \_\_\_\_\_ the believers of H \_\_\_\_\_
- They A \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ in the churches
- They P \_\_\_\_\_ for them

- k. And finally what did they do upon their return to Antioch? Read Acts 14:27
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4. So if we were to produce a Power Point presentation as a report of this first missionary adventure what would our bullet points be

- a. L \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ turning to the Lord. Pisidian Antioch
- b. D \_\_\_\_\_ were overcome. Cyprus Acts 3:8
- c. M \_\_\_\_\_ took place. Iconium Acts 14:3, Lystra 14:8
- d. Treated as G \_\_\_\_\_. Lystra Acts 14:11 – 13
- e. S \_\_\_\_\_ and left for dead. Lystra Acts 14:19 – 20
- f. C \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ – from most places they were driven out.
- g. E \_\_\_\_\_ and C \_\_\_\_\_ churches.
- h. A \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the two cultures that Paul spoke to on this first missionary adventure? Read again Acts 13:5 & 14 and Acts 14:1. And read again also Acts 14:8 – 18



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6. And finally, what were the three responses to their ministry?
- C \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:44
- C \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:50 & 14:2
- C \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 13:12 & 14:1

### **Final Thoughts**

This first missionary adventure was a roller coaster of contrasts.  
In every city they had left converts – and angry people.  
In every city they had left joy – and jealousy.  
They had been treated like Gods – and they had been stoned and left for dead.

So - here is the advertisement for their next missionary adventure.

*Men wanted for hazardous journey.  
Small wages [if any], bitter cold,  
long months of complete darkness,  
constant danger, safe return is doubtful.*

**Are you going to apply? It's called 'being a Christian'.**

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 4 – Salvation In Christ Alone

##### Acts 15:1 - 21

1. Continuing this study in the book of Acts concerning the various challenges faced by the early church; read Acts 15:1 – 21

We will look at 3 aspects from these verses.

- a. The D \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The D \_\_\_\_\_
- c. The D \_\_\_\_\_

2. The difficulty here is whether or not circumcision was necessary for salvation? There are two things at stake here.

The uniquely J \_\_\_\_\_ issue. Read and consider Galatians 3:16

3. The second things at stake here was the General Issue. Read and consider Ephesians 2:8 – 9

Salvation is through Christ ALONE, not –

- Christ plus C \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ plus a certain kind of B \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ plus S \_\_\_\_\_ in T \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ plus a certain D \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
- Christ plus the right doctrine of the S \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

4. **The Discussion**

Apostles and elders of the church went to Jerusalem to discuss this issue. Read and consider Acts 15:6 – 21

Some believing Pharisees were saying –

- You M \_\_\_ be C \_\_\_\_\_ and obey the law of Moses or you cannot be saved. Acts 15:5

How did Peter, Baranbus, Paul and James refute their argument?

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5. **The Decision** ..... was summed up in a letter to the churches. What was it?  
Read and consider Acts 15:20 – 35

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**Final Thoughts**

Any addition to Christ is in reality a subtraction from Christ.  
Any addition to Christ would be the measure of His deficiency.

Are you relying on something else in addition to Christ?

Some contribution of your own?

Some inherited position of your own?

Some accomplishment of your own?

Or on Christ Alone!

Salvation is through CHRIST ALONE.

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 5 – Problems with Peoples and Priorities

#### Acts 15:36 – 41

1. Read and consider Acts 15:36 - 41
  
2. Who are the two 'heroes' of the early church and what are they mostly known for?  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ & P \_\_\_\_\_  


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3. What happened with these two men? Read Acts 15:39  


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4. Who was 'John Mark'?  


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5. There are valuable lessons to learn from this incident, and they fall into 3 categories.
  - i. P \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. P \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. P \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. There was obviously a personality clash between Barnabus and Paul concerning John Mark, but it appears that John Mark himself did not see eye to eye with Paul.  
  
 To learn what Peter said about Paul read 2 Peter 3:15 – 16  
  
 To learn what Paul said about Peter read Galatians 2:11
  
7. These were two conscientious men facing an underlying issue that many leaders face, in that they had two differing priorities.  
  
 What was Paul's priority and reasoning?

Paul places the W \_ \_ \_ first.

What was Barnabus' priority and reasoning?

Barnabus places the P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ first.

8. What can we surmise about Paul's personality that helps us to understand another reason for this conflict of opinion?  
 Paul is a S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.  
 He is F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .  
 He is happy to S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , L \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ ; have no F \_ \_ \_ \_ , no M \_ \_ \_ \_ ;  
 get B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , work L \_ \_ \_ H \_ \_ \_ \_ , and  
 B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ B \_ \_ \_ \_
9. Barnabus is a very different personality. Read Acts 4:36
10. Read Acts 9:26 – 28 which speaks of Paul. What role did Barnabus play in initially helping Paul to be accepted by the church in Jerusalem?
11. So, who would you say was right in this disagreement; Paul or Barnabus?  
 Remember, there were two principles here.
- i. Do you C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a work for the sake of an I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ?
  - ii. Or is the I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for the sake of the work?
12. An interesting thing happened later on.  
 Read and consider 2 Timothy 4:11, Colossians 4:10 and Philemon verse 23.

### Final Thoughts

We need the 'Pauls' in our church to get on with the job and get it done.  
 And we need the 'Barnabus' to develop the workers.

So they were both right.  
 Paul in the short haul,  
 and Barnabus in the long haul.

We need to understand that when we are in Christ  
 our personalities are not obliterated;  
 they are the implements that He uses.

Paul was being himself – getting on with the job.  
 Barnabus was being himself – caring for the underdog.

**And God's work was getting done!**

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 6 – Working With God In The Harvest

#### Acts 16:10 – 34

1. Read Acts 16:10 – 34  
Ask yourself 3 questions:
  - i. What is the primary mandate of the Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. What is the most effective means of evangelism?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Is salvation just a question of having a good sales technique?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Our job is to W \_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ in the task of evangelism through church planting.  
Read and consider 2 Corinthians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 3:9 & 1 Thessalonians 3:2
  
3. We will look at the conversions of 3 people as they teach us important lessons in reaching people.
  - i. Lydia – who had a T \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
  - ii. Demon possessed slave girl – who had a T \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
  - iii. The Jailer – who had a T \_\_\_\_\_ Heart.
  
4. **Lydia – the tender heart.**  
Read Acts 16:13 – 15  
Although she worshipped God, did Lydia actually know God at this time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. **The Slave Girl – the tormented heart.**  
Read Acts 16:16 – 18  
There are 3 important aspects about this story. Do you know what they are?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **The Philippian Jailer – the toughened heart.**

Read and consider Acts 16:25 – 34. Here are some questions to consider,

i. Why was the jailer hard-hearted?

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ii. What amazing thing happened?

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iii. What was the jailer's first response to what happened?

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iv. What was Paul's response?

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v. What did the jailer then do?

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vi. And what happened after that?

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7. Now read and consider John 4:35 – 38

How does this apply to Paul .... and subsequently to us?

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**Final Thoughts**

No preacher can ever save anyone.  
All he/she can do is connect people to God ....  
and then step out of the way.

So ask yourself; what IS God doing this week?  
Are you available to spend time with a Tender heart?  
to patiently wait with a Troubled heart?  
to be positive and excited about being a victim of a Toughened heart?

God is at work in each of these situations.

This is not about learning a '**method of evangelism**'.  
This is learning to '**walk closely with God;**  
**working WITH Him – not FOR Him**'.



## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 7 – Turning The World Back On Its Feet

#### Acts 17:1 – 9

1. Read and consider Acts 17:1 - 9
2. The mandate that started at Pentecost is for the . . .  
Whole C \_\_\_\_\_ to reach the whole W \_\_\_\_\_ with the whole G \_\_\_\_\_
3. The resources to accomplish this task have not changed: they remain.  
The indwelling H \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_, living the life of J \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ us,  
and doing the W \_\_\_\_\_ of J \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ us.
4. Read Acts 17:6 – if possible from the English Standard Version
5. God's raw material is P \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name some of the people whom God raised up for His work.  
N \_\_\_\_\_, A \_\_\_\_\_, M \_\_\_\_\_, D \_\_\_\_\_, D \_\_\_\_\_, E \_\_\_\_\_, M \_\_\_\_\_  
P \_\_\_\_\_, and of course, God so loved the world that He sent His Son J \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is there any problem with the church being an enterprise?  
Is it wrong to have strategies and structures?  

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8. So what kind of person is God looking for?  
Read and consider 2 Corinthians 11:23 – 29  

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9. Read and consider Acts 20:24
10. Are you: P \_\_\_\_\_, G \_\_\_\_\_, S \_\_\_\_\_, G \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you I \_\_\_\_\_?

11. **An Upside Down Messiah.** Read and consider Acts 17:2 - 3
12. Read and consider verse 5. What other response did Paul's exposition and careful explanation have on some of the people?  
J \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
13. **An Upside Down Message.** Read and consider Acts 17:7

### **Final Thoughts**

There is no way the unreached people can become reached without the intentional activity of the reached to connect with the unreached.

After 2,000 years of church history, **the task is not over.**  
The world still needs turning upside down.  
And the only way it will be is if God has . . .

Upside down people,  
With an upside down message,  
About an upside down Messiah.

**who will declare it boldly!**

Are YOU interested in being part of this exciting adventure?

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 8 – Destroying The Idols

#### Acts 17:15 – 34

1. Read and consider Acts 17:15 - 34
2. What do we know about Athens at this time in history; and what was happening there? Read Acts 17:21 & 22

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3. So, what IS Idolatry? Read and consider Isaiah 44:12 – 20 and Romans 1:25

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4. An idol is defined as:

Something we C \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_.

Something that D \_\_\_\_\_ our lives.

Something that we M \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_.

Something that we would B \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ or H \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ or even H \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ in order to get it.

5. Read Colossians 3:5 for a list of idols from the Apostle Paul;

S \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_, L \_\_\_\_\_, E \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ and G \_\_\_\_\_, but you can add to that list :

M \_\_\_\_\_, M \_\_\_\_\_, P \_\_\_\_\_, B \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_, W \_\_\_\_\_,

A \_\_\_\_\_, R \_\_\_\_\_

6. Consider for a moment the following 3 idols in modern society.

- i. MONEY
- ii. LUST
- iii. POWER

7. Why is it that many people turn away from God – Christians included?  
 Because they have become I \_\_\_\_\_  
 Something other than God has begun to D \_\_\_\_\_ their lives, and given  
 them a F \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ of H \_\_\_\_\_, M \_\_\_\_\_ and J \_\_\_\_\_.

8. a. The idol of M \_\_\_\_\_ ambition - C \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. The idol of S \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ - D \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. The idol of P \_\_\_\_\_ - puts M \_ F \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. The idol of S \_\_\_\_\_ - I \_\_\_\_\_ - is never S \_\_\_\_\_

9. In Athens there were many gods. See how many  
 you know.

O \_\_\_\_\_ - god of human strength and excellence.

A \_\_\_\_\_ - goddess of love, sex and beauty.

E \_\_\_\_\_ - god of sexual desire.

A \_\_\_\_\_ - God of war.

A \_\_\_\_\_ - goddess of the Arts.

H \_\_\_\_\_ - god of trade.

P \_\_\_\_\_ - god of the seas.

A \_\_\_\_\_ - god of the sun and moon.

A \_\_\_\_\_ - goddess of the hunt.

D \_\_\_\_\_ - goddess of the harvest.

H \_\_\_\_\_ - goddess of the family.

Z \_\_\_\_\_ - the supreme god and ruler of mankind.

10. See what Ezekiel says in the first part of verse 3 in chapter 14

The following gods especially rule today.  
 Hermes, Hera, Eros, Aphrodite and Olympus.

11. Read and consider Acts 17:22 - 23

In Athens there was the worst god of all. Why would we say that?

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12. Some of the tell-tale signs that a person could be dominated by idol worship are:

Acting I \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of something.

L \_\_\_\_\_ your S \_\_\_\_\_, and rationalizing it.

B \_\_\_\_\_ up your F \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of it.

C \_\_\_\_\_ J \_\_\_\_\_ for no good reason . Uprooting your family.

S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ beyond your means.

Being D \_\_\_\_\_ or C \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of something.

I \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ such as hoping to win the lottery.

A \_\_\_\_\_ to P \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is there an antidote? Read Acts 17:18

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14. How should we respond?  
Read Matthew 6:29 – 33

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### **Final Thoughts**

We were created to know God,  
and therefore the more we disengage from the true God,  
the more idols we create.

Idols are more than statues or carvings  
[or wannbe singers in front of Simon Cowell];  
and it would be wrong to say that we have no idol worship in Canada today.

**Idols are spiritual addictions that lead to terrible evil.**

Idols are dead – but Christ is alive!

Turn away from sin and repent. Sin is NEVER your friend  
There may be pleasures in sin – but only for a season.

And remember this from Acts 17:30

*In the past God overlooked such ignorance,  
but now He commands all people everywhere to repent!*

## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 9 – Encouragement In Tough Times

#### Acts 18:1 - 28

1. Read Acts 18:1 - 11
2. The 3 causes of Paul's discouragement all centered on the city of Corinth.
  - i. The C \_\_\_ [of Corinth]
  - ii. The C \_\_\_\_\_ [in Corinth]
  - iii. The C \_\_\_\_\_ [in Corinth]
3. What was it that was so discouraging about the city of Corinth?  
1 Corinthians 6:9 – 11  


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4. How did Paul go about trying to reach these people who were mired in such terrible sin? Read 1 Corinthians 2:2  
 Paul did not try to S \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ their S \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He did not try to D \_\_\_\_\_ their I \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nor did he attempt to C \_\_\_\_\_ their L \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the important lesson that we can learn from the way in which Paul approached ministering to the sinful people at Corinth?  


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6. **The Circumstances in Corinth.**  
 When Paul arrived in Corinth he faced 3 difficult circumstances.
  - i. He did not have any F \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. He did not have any F \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. He did not have any F \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was it whom the Lord provided to help Paul's need for friends?  
 A \_\_\_\_\_ and P \_\_\_\_\_

And who later arrived in Corinth to help Paul?

S \_\_\_\_\_ and T \_\_\_\_\_

8. When Paul arrived in Corinth he had no funds, so what specifically did he do?

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9. Read and discuss 2 Thessalonians 3:7 – 9.  
What do we learn from this about Paul's attitude?

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10. When Paul arrived in Corinth there was no nucleus of believers, so Paul had to start from scratch; and what was the first thing that happened? Acts 18:6

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11. Did ANYTHING happen at this time that would have been an encouragement to Paul? Read Acts 18:8

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12. **The Church in Corinth**

No church that Paul had founded had more trouble than this one.

It was deeply D \_\_\_\_\_ in C \_\_\_\_\_ of people following different leaders.

There was I \_\_\_\_\_ of the worst kind, including I \_\_\_\_\_.

They were S \_\_\_\_\_ each other in C \_\_\_\_\_

Some would get D \_\_\_\_\_ at the Lord's Table.

They mixed P \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs and practices with C \_\_\_\_\_.

They were misusing S \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_.

They M \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 6:9 - 11

### **Final Thoughts**

To get a perspective on how bad the situation was with the church in Corinth consider that in all of Paul's writings to the church he founded he wrote more to this church than any of the others.

- 29 chapters written to the church in Corinth.
- Only 16 chapters to the church in Rome,
- 6 chapters each to the Galatians and Ephesians.
  - 8 Chapters to the Thessalonians
  - Only 4 chapter to the Philippians.

The church at Corinth was in a mess –  
and unfortunately, not unlike some of the church today.



## Message Guide & Questions

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down Part 10 – The Gospel Of Receiving The Holy Spirit Acts 19:1 – 7

1. In this last message in the 'Acts III – Turning the World Upside Down' series we will look at Paul's ministry in the city of Ephesus. Read and consider Acts 19:1 - 7
2. Read again Acts 19:1 – 2  
There are 4 descriptive words here to describe these 12 men that Paul met.
  - i. They were described as D \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. They B \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. They were B \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iv. They had R \_\_\_\_\_.

But Paul discerned that something was missing; what was it?  
There was no S \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ in these men.

3. How could such a situation have arisen? Read and consider Acts 18:24 – 26

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4. What are the 4 ingredients for full conversion in the book of Acts?
  - i. R \_\_\_\_\_ towards God.
  - ii. F \_ \_ \_ \_ in Christ.
  - iii. Water B \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iv. Receiving the gift of the H \_ \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. How do you know that you have received the Holy Spirit?  
Read 1 John 3:24 and 2 Corinthians 13:5

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6. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is centered on Christ.  
There are 3 evidences of the Holy Spirit's indwelling.

- i. A H \_\_\_\_\_ to K\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.
- ii. A H \_\_\_\_\_ to B \_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.
- iii. A H \_\_\_\_\_ to S \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.

7. **A Hunger to Know Jesus Christ**

Read and consider John 15:26 and John 16:14 – 15 What kind of relationship do you have with Jesus Christ?

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8. **The Hunger to Be Like Jesus Christ**

Read and consider Galatians 5:19:24  
Remember these are fruits not flowers. What's the difference?

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9. **A Hunger to Serve Jesus Christ**

Read and consider John 7:37 - 39

A mark of the Holy Spirit is a new

C \_\_\_\_\_ for the world in which we live.

A D \_\_\_\_\_ to S \_\_\_\_\_, to be a M \_\_\_\_\_ of God fulfilling His work.

### **Final Thoughts**

Ephesus was an important church in the New Testament,  
 eliciting 4 letters in all,  
 (one by Paul to the church itself;  
 2 letters to Timothy, who was sent to lead the work there;  
 and one of the 7 letters of Jesus to the churches in Asia Minor  
 in the book of Revelation)

However, the people on Ephesus were getting only half the Gospel  
 which did not include receiving the Holy Spirit.  
 A mark of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a life  
 is that Jesus steps out of history [the Bible]  
 and becomes a living Person to us.

However, being like Christ  
 is not floating around 6 inches above ground  
 with a sort of 'bless you my child' attitude.  
 That is a million mile from being Christ-like.  
 He was never like that.  
 Jesus ate with publicans and sinners,  
 He touched lepers,  
 He was obedient to the point that it hurt.  
 Could you be called Christ-like?

#### **BEFORE PENTECOST**

the disciples were concerned with themselves.  
 Peter had denied Christ to save his own skin;  
 all had fled and hidden for fear.

#### **BUT AFTER PENTECOST**

the disciple became concerned with Jesus Christ and His agenda;  
 if arrested and killed – so be it. Very different than before.

#### **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**

Is there the experience of the Holy Spirit in your life?

#### **Is the Holy Spirit healthy in your life today?**

Remember – we can receive the Holy Spirit,  
 but we can also grieve and quench him.

## **Leader's Message Guide & Answers**

### **Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down**

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 1 – A Dynamic or Dying Church

#### Acts 11:19 – 24: 3:1 - 3

1. Read Acts 11:19 – 24 & 13:1 – 3
  
2. On the morning of Pentecost there were about **120** disciples.  
By evening of that day there were **3,000**.  
Within weeks that number had grown to **5,000**.  
What does this signify? There was astonishing rapid growth.  
What caused this to happen? The introduction of the Holy Spirit.  
  
Additional reading: Acts 2:47, 5:14, and 6:7.
  
3. The church grew and spread outside of Jerusalem.
  
4. So, the church began in **Jerusalem**, an outpost of the Roman Empire; spread north into **Syria**; west to the island of **Cyprus**; North West to **Turkey**; West to **Greece**, and eventually to **Rome** itself.
  
5. Acts 17:6 – NIV –  
*“These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here.”*  
  
Acts 17:6 – English Standard Version –  
*“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.”*
  
6. From the first 7 chapters of Acts, all the activity of the church was in Jerusalem only.  
The early church received power from the Holy Spirit and there was an initial surge, but then they got stuck – their wheels seemed to be spinning. We don't know for how long, but possibly years had gone by and the church was still in Jerusalem. They had only gotten to Phase One.
  
7. The church had become comfortable. They had great leaders – Peter, John, James, Philip etc. They were experiencing growth in Jerusalem, so why move out into hostile land?
  
8. God **disturbed** their **comfort**.  
The catalyst of this was the stoning to death of Stephen which triggered Acts 8:1.
  
9. What **really** happened was that .....  
**Persecution** had **driven** the church to **obedience**.

10. The New Testament church was a **Persecution Driven Church**.
11. The early church was held back because their focus was only local – Jerusalem – and although some Gentiles were believers, the focus was still to Jews only.
12. The early church had been instructed to evangelize the world; but instead of having this outward focus on the world it had taken an inward focus on itself.

Jerusalem is never again the leading church in Acts, nor is it the dynamic evangelistic church that it had once been; that mantle moved from Jerusalem to Antioch.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 2 – A Three Dimensional Growth Pattern

#### Acts 13:1 - 5

1. Read Acts 13:1 - 5
2. According to the 'Centre for the Study of Global Christianity' there are about 419,900 missionaries around the world?
3. Someone who has crossed into another **CULTURE**; possibly another **COUNTRY**; learned another **LANGUAGE**; to take the **GOSPEL**, or to equip the **LOCAL CHRISTIANS** to take the **GOSPEL** to their people.
4. Paul took 3 missionary trip; the first one lasted 18 months, the second one for 2½ years, and the third for 4 years.
5. Acts 17:6, from the English Standard Version of the Bible, says:  
*"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also."*
6.
  - a. The Role of the HOLY SPIRIT Acts 13:3
  - b. The Role of the CHURCH Acts 13:1, 2 & 4
  - c. The Role of the WORKERS Acts 13:4 - 5
7. **The Role of the Holy Spirit**
  - a. He **SPEAKS** Acts 13:2
  - b. He **SETS APART** Acts 13:2
  - c. He **SENDS** Acts 13:4
8. **The Role of the Church**  
The cosmopolitan nature of the church at Antioch was such that the 5 man Leadership came from 3 different continents giving them a better understanding of the mission to which the church was called.
9. Acts 13:2 tells us that the church was "*worshipping and fasting*" when the Holy Spirit gave them instruction.
10. **The Role of the Workers**  
Referring to the workers Acts 13:3 tell us that 'they [the church] sent them off'; and then verse 4 says that the workers were 'sent on their way by the Holy Spirit.'

They worked under the authority of the church that sent them, and the Holy Spirit who empowered them.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 3 – Connecting The Dots

#### Acts 13:4 - 52

1. We are going to look at Paul and Barnabus' first missionary adventure.  
It covers Acts chapters 13 – 14.  
It lasted approximately 18 - 24 months.  
It covered 2,400 km [about 1,500 miles]  
This is the only journey when Barnabus accompanied Paul.
  
2. Three of the features of this first missionary adventure were –
  - a. Human beings working together with **God in His mission**
  - b. Experiencing His **PRESENCE** and **POWER** at work.
  - c. Seeing hundreds of lives **TRANSFORMED**.
  
3.
  - a. From where did the journey start? **Antioch**.
  - b. Their first destination was **Cyprus**.  
Remember, this is where Barnabus came from, so he was going to home territory, a place that he was familiar with.
  - c. They landed at **Salamis** and preached in the synagogue there – obviously only to Jews.
  - d. Traveling across the island from east to west  
they stopped at **Paphos**. Here they meet a sorcerer and a false prophet.
  - e. While in Paphos Paul rebuked the false prophet Elymas [also known as Bar-Jesus] and struck him blind – you could say a reverse miracle.  
However, this so amazed the Governor of Cyprus that he believed and was saved.  
  
*It was not a bad thing that the first recorded convert on this missionary adventure was the Governor of the entire Island of Cyprus.*
  - f. Next they sailed to **Perga** in the province of Pamphylia in present day Turkey.  
  
It was here that John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem – a controversial issue which later led to Barnabus and Paul splitting up.
  - g. From Acts 13:14 – 52 we learn that in .....
    - i. **PISIDIAN ANTIOCH** they preached in the synagogue – again just to the Jewish community.



- ii. The next Sabbath the **whole city** gathered to listen, and there were Gentiles too who listened and were converted.
  - iii. Verse 49 tells us that the word of the Lord spread through the whole region, but this also provoked opposition to such an extent that Barnabus and Paul 'shook the dust from their feet' and moved on.
- h. After Barnabus and Paul 'shook the dust from their feet' and moved on, they went to **ICONIUM** where they preached in the synagogue – again their focus was on the
- Jews – but many Jews and Gentiles believed. However this divided the city so much that a plot was formed to stone them, but having found out about this they fled to the next city.
- i. In **LYSTRA** Barnabus and Paul –
    - Continued to preach the Gospel.
    - A crippled man – lame from birth – was healed.
    - The crowds tried to call them 'gods'. Barnabus they called 'Zeus' and Paul they called 'Hermes' because he was the chief speaker.
    - Paul was dragged outside the city, was stoned and left for dead [we don't know where Barnabus was during this].
    - After Paul was helped by the disciples and revived he incredibly went back into the city.
  - j. As well as preaching the Gospel – and paying a heavy price for that – what else did Barnabus and Paul do on this trip?
    - They **STRENGTHENED** the **BELIEVERS**.
    - They **WARNED** the believers of **HARDSHIPS**.
    - They **APPOINTED ELDERS** in the churches.
    - They **PRAYED** for them.
  - k. They gave their report of all that God had done through them.
- 4.
- a. **LARGE CROWDS** turning to the Lord      Pisidian Antioch
  - b. **DEMONS** were overcome.                      Cyprus Acts 13:8
  - c. **MIRACLES** took place.                        Iconium Acts 14:3, Lystra 14:8
  - d. Treated as **GODS**.                                Lystra Acts 14:11 – 13
  - e. **STONED** and left for dead.                    Lystra Acts 14:19 – 20
  - f. **CONTINUALLY OPPOSED** – they were driven out from most places
  - g. **ESTABLISHED** and **CONSOLIDATED** churches.
  - h. **APPOINTED ELDERS**.
5. Paul spoke to
- i. The Jewish Culture.      Acts 13:5 & 14 and Acts 14:1
  - ii. The Pagan Culture      Acts 14:8 - 18

In Lystra it was of the Greco-Roman world.

6.       **CURIOSITY**           Acts 13:44  
          **CONFRONTATION**   Acts 13:50 & 14:2  
          **CONVICTION**       Acts 13:12 & 14:1

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 4 – Salvation In Christ Alone

##### Acts 15:1 - 21

1. Acts 15:1 – 21 shows us that there was contention among the early believers, most of whom, we must remember, were brought up as staunch Jews.

We will look at 3 aspects from these verses.

- a. The DIFFICULTY
  - b. The DISCUSSION
  - c. The DECISION
2. Firstly there is the uniquely **Jewish** issue.

Circumcision is the sign of the covenant that God made with Israel. The mission of Israel was to procreate so that the seed of Abraham – Christ - would come. But now that Christ has come, that part of the mission was over.

Even those Jews who saw Christ as the Messiah, saw Him as an addition to what they already knew – not the fulfillment.

They were happy to add Jesus as an enhancer to the existing structure, because they could see the benefit of adding Jesus. But they did not see the

Gospel as something entirely radical that would replace everything else.

To see how tense this made things read Galatians 2:11 - 13

3. This **General** Issue has its roots in the Jewish issue, but it is different. An erroneous prevailing thought was –

God does His bit – by dying in my place – and then I do my bit.

Salvation is through Christ ALONE, not –

- Christ plus **CIRCUMCISION**
- Christ plus a certain kind of **BAPTISM**
- Christ plus **SPEAKING** in **TONGUES**
- Christ plus a certain **DOCTRINE** of the church
- Christ plus the right doctrine of the **SECOND COMING**

#### 4. The Discussion

Some believing Pharisees were saying –

- You **MUST** be **CIRCUMSIZED** and obey the law of Moses or you cannot be saved. Acts 15:5
- **PETER** in verses 7 - 11 refuted their argument by saying –
  - v.7 God chose him to **FIRST** speak to the Gentiles.
  - v.8a The Gentiles were accepted by God.
  - v.8b God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit exactly the same as the Jews.
  - v.9 God made no distinction between Jew & Gentile.

And verse 11 is the clincher!

*It is through the grace of God that we are saved – just as we are.*

- **BARNABUS and PAUL** in verse 12 expanded on Peter's statement by giving testimony of God working through them as messengers to the Gentile world.  
**God saves Gentiles with no distinction and no circumcision.**
- **JAMES** as the Chairperson of the group does 3 things in verses 13 – 21
  - a. He listens to the evidence. Read v.14
  - b. He compares it with scripture. Read v.16 – 18 and Amos 9:11 – 12
  - c. He comes to a conclusion. Read v.19

#### 5. The Decision - ..... was summed up in a letter to the churches.

**This is no need for circumcision.**

## Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 5 – Problems with Peoples and Priorities

#### Acts 15:36 – 41

1. Acts 15:36 – 41  
The Bible always tells us the truth about its heroes; they too have feet of clay. Hebrews 11 tells us about 15 people who 'lived by faith', but in fact it is closer to being a 'Rogues Gallery' than a 'Hall of Fame'. If you have time, read Hebrews 11.
  
2. The two 'heroes' of the early church are -  
  
**Barnabus** – who joined the Apostles early in Jerusalem; went to lead the church in Antioch, and was the primary leader of the first Missionary Journey which is usually attributed to Paul.  
  
**Paul** – who blazed a trail for the Gospel across the Mediterranean world and into Europe. He planted churches in many cities, and shaped Christian theology, eventually writing 13 New Testament books.
  
3. These men had an argument that was so big that they parted company. Barnabus walks out of the story and is never mentioned again in the book of Acts.  
  
 Take some time to consider the cause of that argument, which was whether or not to take John Mark on another missionary journey even though he had deserted them half-way through their first journey.
  
4. The mother of John Mark was a key person in the Jerusalem Church. John Mark himself was a good friend of Peter; and John Mark was the writer of the gospel that bears his name – although this is considered to be Peter's record just written down by Mark.
  
5. There are valuable lessons to learn from this incident, and they fall into 3 categories.
  - i. PERSONALITIES
  - ii. PRIORITIES
  - iii. PRINCIPLES

6. There apparently was some needling going on between Paul and John Mark, and this was further complicated by the fact that John Mark was the cousin of Barnabus – so there was also some nepotism involved
7. Paul places the **WORK** first. He reasons that they had taken John Mark with them the first time, but he quit and went home early. The work is too important to risk this happening again.

Barnabus places **PEOPLE** first. His reasoning is that despite John Mark's failure the first time, John Mark still has potential; don't write him off; give him another opportunity.

8. Paul is a **STRAIGHT SHOOTER**, He is **FOCUSED, COMMITED** and **DIRECT**. He is happy to **SUFFER, LOSE SLEEP**, have no **FOOD**, no **MONEY**, get **BEATEN, IMPRISONED**, work **LONG HOURS** and **BOUNCE BACK**.
9. Barnabus was 'Mr. Encourager'
10. When the early church thought of Paul as being the enemy, a terrorist and maybe an infiltrator, it was Barnabus who stood by Paul and vouched for him, paving the way for Paul to be accepted by the church.
11. They both believed they were right; enough that they entered a sharp, contentious disagreement that caused them to separate and never work together again.

Remember, there were two principles here.

- i. Do you **COMPROMISE** a work for the sake of an **INDIVIDUAL**?
- ii. Or is the **INDIVIDUAL DISPENSIBLE** for the sake of the work

In a sense they were both right – and perhaps they were wrong to have argued; but they were both being true to who they were.

Paul, the go-getter, no-nonsense pioneer.

Baranbus – no less a pioneer but with a more pastoral heart; an encourager and a team builder.

12. Through these verses we learn that John Mark eventually joined Paul's team.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 6 – Working With God In The Harvest

#### Acts 16:10 – 34

1. Read Acts 16:10 – 34
  - i. To take the Gospel to the world.
  - ii. Church planting.  
Caring for people and nurturing them grows out of this.
  - iii. Salvation is purely a **work of God**.

2. Our job is to **WORK TOGETHER WITH GOD** in the task of evangelism through church planting.  
Read and consider 2 Corinthians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 3:9 & 1 Thessalonians 3:2

DO NOT move from working WITH God to working FOR God!

3.
  - i. Lydia – who had a **TENDER** heart.
  - ii. Demon possessed slave girl – who had a **TORMENTED** heart.
  - iii. The Jailer – who had a **TOUGHENED** Heart.

4. **Lydia – the tender heart.** Acts 16:13 - 15

Paul would normally always go to the synagogue when entering a new city, but at Philippi there was no synagogue so he went to the river to find a place of prayer, and that was where he met Lydia.

Lydia did not yet know God but with her tender heart she had a seeking disposition towards Him, and so she responded readily to the message of Paul.

This was a work of God as her tender heart became an open heart.

5. **The Slave Girl – the tormented heart.**

Acts 16:16 – 18

- i. This girl was physically owned by her human master, but spiritually owned by her demonic master. She is in a sad, abused, wounded and sinful place in her life.
- ii. Interestingly she recognized Paul and the others as being “*servants of the most high God who are telling you how to be saved*”
- iii. Paul resisted the temptation to respond until many days later.

The timing always has to be right, and there is no set formula for this. Staying close to God, working WITH Him is the only way to discern the right time.

6. **The Philippian Jailer – the toughened heart.** Acts 16:25 – 34

- i. Roman prisons were notoriously cruel. He had to treat people badly.
- ii. There was an earthquake causing all the prison doors to open and the prisoner's chains to fall off.
- iii. He thought that everyone had, or was going to, escape, so he prepared to kill himself.
- iv. Paul called out to stop the jailer from killing himself, and assured him that although their chains were off and the prison doors open, all the prisoners were still there with no intention of escaping.
- v. The jailer asked Paul what he should do to be saved. After Paul told him the jailer became a believer.
- vi. The jailer washed the prisoner's wounds; somehow all his family were baptized; and then the jailer took Paul and the others back to his house where he gave them a meal

7. John 4:35 – 38.

Our eyes must always be open to the harvest fields; but we must always be sensitive to the Lord's timing ..... and we should NEVER grumble about our circumstances. Those circumstances may be the means by which God will reach some people.



## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 7 – Turning The World Back On Its Feet

#### Acts 17:1 – 9

1. Acts 17:1 – 9  
This is the unfinished story of the Book of Acts.  
Acts began at Pentecost and for 2,000 years the mandate has not changed.
2. The mandate that started at Pentecost is for the . . .  
Whole **CHURCH** to reach the whole **WORLD** with the whole **GOSPEL**.
3. The resources to accomplish this task have not changed . . .  
The indwelling **HOLY SPIRIT** living the life of **JESUS CHRIST IN** us, and doing the **WORK** of **JESUS CHRIST THROUGH** us

**The Book of Acts teaches us the principles of the operation.**

4. Acts 17:6 – from the English Standard Version says:  
*These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.*
  - i. Paul was an upside down man.
  - ii. Paul had an upside down message.
  - iii. Paul had an upside down Messiah.
5. God's raw material is **People**  
  
God begins every enterprise with human beings. He does not drop an abstract plan from heaven; He raises up 'people'
6. God raised up for His work . . .  
**NOAH, ABRAHAM, MOSES, DEBORAH, DAVID, ELIJAH, MARY, PAUL**, and of course, God so loved the world that He sent His Son **JESUS**.  
  
It has been said that Christianity started in Palestine as a **fellowship**; it moved to Greece and became a **philosophy**; it moved to Italy and became an **institution**; it moved to Europe and became a **culture**; then it came to America and became an **enterprise**.
7. The problem with an enterprise is that it can be taken up with **method**.  
This can cause **strategies** that are **mechanical**.  
We do need strategies and structures, but God's methods are first and foremost **PEOPLE**.

8. God is looking for the kind of people who are willing to pay the price; and Paul is a perfect example of that.

It is no accident that Paul was greatly used by God. He was called and anointed for this specific task.

Is there a 'so far and no further' line in YOUR Christianity?  
Where does the **true cost of discipleship** become unreasonable?

9. Acts 20:24. Is this your kind of Christianity?  
Or is it the superficial 'I want Jesus to make me happy' kind.

10. Are you: **PRAYING, GIVING, SENDING, GOING?**  
Are you **INVOLVED?**

A person who turns the world upside down is an 'upside down person' who is singing a different song than the world [and most of the church]

11. Acts 17:2 – 3 - **Upside Down Messiah.**

Paul's message of a suffering crucified Messiah was certainly 'upside down' to the Jews to whom He was preaching. They expected their Messiah to victoriously deliver them from the bondage of the Roman Empire, and they were offended by Paul's teaching.

Paul's ideas were not new, but came out of scripture, and it is good to note that he 'reasoned with them', explaining and proving'. This was careful exposition and explanation. Read Acts 17:4 to see whether or not Paul was successful in this.

12. The people's response to Paul's exposition and careful explanation was  
**JEALOUSY**

It is sadly interesting that this opposition came from within. Read and consider Matthew 10:32 – 26. Expect this!

13. Acts 17:7 - **An Upside Down Message.**

As we have said, the Jews were expecting a King to victoriously deliver them from the bondage of the Roman Empire, but the King that Paul was presenting actually strikes a death blow to our own independence and our own agenda.

The Kingship and Lordship of Christ demands our **surrender**; and it is not an optional add on; it is fundamental. Read Matthew 16:24 – 25

Verse 25 is not an invitation to martyrdom. If you give your life away to Jesus [lose it], He will give **His** life away to you [find it].

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 8 – Destroying The Idols

#### Acts 17:15 – 34

1. Idolatry is a frequent issue in Paul's journeys, and idolatry is probably one of the most serious problems in the world, and in the church today.
2. At this time in history Athens was known as the birthplace of philosophy and classical culture, but it was also known as 'the city of idols'.

It was more than just philosophical talk; the ideas had come to dominate and had themselves become Gods and Idols.

3. To exchange the truth about God is to worship idols; but idols are much more than statues and carvings; and it would be wrong to say that we have no idol worship in Canada today.
4. An idol is defined as:
  - Something we **CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT**.
  - Something that **DOMINATES** our lives.
  - Something that we **MUST HAVE**
  - Something that we would **BREAK THE RULES** or **HARM OTHERS** or even **HARM OURSELVES** in order to get it.

**Idols are spiritual addictions that lead to terrible evil.**

5. **SEXUAL IMMORALITY, IMPURITY, LUST, EVIL DESIRES and GREED.**

but you can add to that list :

**MONEY, MATERIALISM, POWER, BODY IMAGE [especially in women] WORK, AMBITION and REPUTATION.**

6.
  - i. **MONEY** Can become a powerful life-altering, culture-shaping, god that eventually break the hearts of its worshippers. In the last recession 5 leading bankers in the USA & UK committed suicide. They were addicted to the idol of money.
  - ii. **LUST** Can become a driving power in a person's life. Feed it enough and you will break the rules by which you once lived. In our day pornography has become a shrine at which the idol of lust is

worshipped. It has never been as readily available as it is today; and it does, and will, destroy.

iii. **POWER** The desire for power and to control is an idol.

*In marriages* - Husbands lord it over their wives; or wives manipulate and control their husbands.

*With kids* - Many parents plot their children's lives and they resent it when their children have their own ideas for their future. You can advise, but never control.

*At work* - A work or other spheres of Social interaction.

You will learn from observation that the best people to exercise power are **those who don't want it**, and are **not looking for it**. Those who want it usually have a hidden agenda.

7. Because they have become **IDOLATORS**  
Something other than God has begun to **DOMINATE** their lives, and given them  
a  
**FALSE SENSE** of **HOPE, MEANING** and **JOY**.
8.
  - a. The idol of **MATERIAL** ambition – **CORRUPTS**.
  - b. The idol of **SEXUAL APPETITE** – **DESTROYS**.
  - c. The idol of **PRIDE** - puts **ME FIRST**.
  - d. The idol of **SELF-IMAGE** - is never **SATISFIED**.
9.
 

<b>OLYMPUS</b>	- god of human strength and excellence.
<b>APHRODITE</b>	- goddess of love, sex and beauty.
<b>EROS</b>	- god of sexual desire.
<b>ARES</b>	- God of war.
<b>ATHENA</b>	- goddess of the Arts.
<b>HERMES</b>	- god of trade.
<b>POSEIDON</b>	- god of the seas.
<b>APOLLO</b>	- god of the sun and moon.
<b>AARTEMIS</b>	- goddess of the hunt.
<b>DEMETER</b>	- goddess of the harvest.
<b>HERA</b>	- goddess of the family.
<b>ZEUS</b>	- the supreme god and ruler of mankind.
10. The following Gods especially rule today.
 

Hermes	- the god of trade.
Hera	- the goddess of the family.
Eros	- the god of sexual desire [lust, not love].
Aphrodite	- the goddess of love, sex and beauty.
Olympus	- the god of human strength and excellence.

11. Unknown gods can be the most dangerous because they will cause us to pursue something we cannot identify.
12. Some of the tell-tale signs that a person could be dominated by idol worship are:
  - Acting **IRRATIONALLY** in pursuit of something.
  - **LEAVING** your **SPOUSE** and rationalizing it.
  - **BREAKING** up your **FAMILY** in pursuit of it.
  - **CHANGING JOB** for no good reason. Uprooting your family.
  - **SPENDING MONEY** beyond your means.
  - Being **DISHONEST** or **CHEATING** in pursuit of something.
  - **IDLE DREAMS** such as hoping to win the lottery.
  - **ADDICTION** to **PORNOGRAPHY**.

13. The antidote to idolatry is Christ, risen from the dead.

Although idols are powerful forces ..... they are dead.

They are ideas, appetites, instincts and ambitions that drive a person, but they do not give life – they only offer death. They leave you spent, exhausted and broken.

14. Matthew 6:29 – 33 These verses give the complete answer.

The answer to idol worship can only be found in God Himself, who is alive!

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down

#### Part 9 – Encouragement In Tough Times

##### Acts 18:1 - 28

1. By the time Paul reached Corinth he was weary, tired and discouraged. Have you ever felt like that?
2. The 3 causes of Paul's discouragement were:
  - i. The **CITY** [of Corinth]
  - ii. The **CIRCUMSTANCES** [in Corinth]
  - iii. The **CHURCH** [in Corinth]
3. The city of Corinth was a port city and a flourishing centre of trade and industry, but it was also probably the most corrupt place that Paul had ever visited. The city was dominated by the Temple of Aphrodite, and there were 1,000 temple prostitutes who entered the city each evening to ply their trade.

You worshipped Aphrodite by having sex with one of the prostitutes.

**No city in the entire Roman Empire was more corrupt than Corinth.**

Since his call from God to go to Macedonia Paul had been driven out of Philippi, Thessalonica,

Berea and Athens. He had endured imprisonment, physical attack, verbal attack and rejection; and now he was moving into another likely war zone.

He was, after all, only human, and he was tired, weary, weak and tempted to quit. No wonder he wrote to them 1 Corinthians 2:3 [read]

4. Paul did not try to **SORT OUT** their **SEXUAL IMMORALITY**.  
He did not try to **DENOUNCE** their **IDOLATRY**  
Nor did he attempt to **CORRECT** their **LICENTIOUSNESS**
5. Paul did not attack them on the basis of their sin. He preached the gospel of Christ crucified, knowing that this would be the means of reconciling them to God, and then, having been reconciled to God, they would be equipped to live holy lives.

Sometimes we can spend too much time and effort attacking the sin in the sinner rather than trying to introduce them to Jesus.

6. **The Circumstances in Corinth.**

When Paul arrived in Corinth he faced 3 difficult circumstances.

- i. He did not have any **FRIENDS**
- ii. He did not have any **FUNDS**
- iii. He did not have any **FELLOWSHIP**

Paul arrived in Corinth alone - Acts 17:14 -, and opposition began to arise - Acts 18:6 – so it is no wonder that Paul began to feel discouraged.

7. **AQUILLA and PRICILLA** [Romans 16:3 – 4]

Later **SILAS** and **TIMOTHY** arrived in Corinth to help Paul?

8. When Paul arrived in Corinth he had no funds, so he immediately got a job, working with Aquilla to make tents.

9. 2 Thessalonians 3:7 – 9.

Paul took nothing for granted, and he owed no-one anything. He worked for his own keep.

This has given rise to the expression in the church today - 'tentmaker' – to describe someone involved in missions whose financial needs are met by their own working rather than relying on the financial support of other people.

10. When Paul arrived in Corinth there was no nucleus of believers other than Aquilla and Priscilla who were expatriates from Rome; and sure enough, when Paul went and preached in the synagogue ..... there was opposition.

11. Did ANYTHING happen at this time that would have been an encouragement to Paul? Yes – a momentum began to build.

12. **The Church in Corinth**

No church that Paul had founded had more trouble than this one.

- It was deeply **DIVIDED** in **CLIQUEs** of people following different leaders.
- There was **IMMORALITY** of the worst kind, including **INCEST**.
- They were **SUING** each other in **COURT**.
- Some would get **DRUNK** at the Lord 's Table.
- They mixed **PAGAN** beliefs and practices with **CHRISTIANITY**
- They were misusing **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**
- They **MISUNDERSTOOD BASIC DOCTRINE**.

This was a church in a MESS!

13. 1 Corinthians 6:9 - 11

To this sinful city and church Paul attests to the fact that the Gospel has the power to Transform and to Keep.

So don't be discouraged in the 'Corinthian world' in which we live. The Lord says to us as He said to Paul:

*"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent, for I am with you ..... I have many people in this city."*



## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Acts III – Turning The World Upside Down Part 10 – The Gospel Of Receiving The Holy Spirit Acts 19:1 – 7

1. Paul invested a lot of time at Ephesus. Acts 20:31
  - For 3 months he preached in the synagogue – before he was driven out.
  - For 2 years in spoke every day in the lecture hall of Tyranus.
  - For a further 9 months he was active elsewhere. Acts 19:10

2. Read again Acts 19:1 – 2  
There are 4 descriptive words here to describe these 12 men that Paul met.

- i. They were described as **DISCIPLES**
- ii. They **BELIEVED**.
- iii. They were **BAPTISED**.
- iv. They had **REPENTED**.

But there was no **SPIRITUAL LIFE** in these men.

These men only had a pre-Pentecost gospel such as was offered by John the Baptist, a gospel that did not involve receiving the Holy Spirit.

3. The people of Ephesus had been sitting under the teaching of Apollos and had learned from him, and it required Aquilla and Priscilla to set his theology straight

But the damage had been done. People were getting only half the Gospel which did not include receiving the Holy Spirit.

4. What are the 4 ingredients for full conversion in the book of Acts?

- i. **REPENTANCE** towards God.
- ii. **FAITH** in Christ.
- iii. Water **BAPTISM**.
- iv. Receiving the gift of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

The Ephesians had the first 3 but not the last.

5. You need to examine, test and evaluate your own self to see whether you are holding to your faith, and showing the proper fruits of it.

6.
  - i. A **HUNGER** to **KNOW** Jesus Christ.
  - ii. A **HUNGER** to **BE LIKE** Jesus Christ.
  - iii. A **HUNGER** to **SERVE** Jesus Christ.

7. **A Hunger to Know Jesus Christ**

John 15:26 and John 16:14 - 15

You could have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is similar to that which you have with your blood relatives. This is a relationship based on status regardless of whether or not you have anything in common with that relative, or whether you even like him/her.

Or you can have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is intimate – a friendship – growing deeper each day.

The work of the Holy Spirit is not that you should worship the Holy Spirit; but when the Holy Spirit comes to live within you **Jesus Christ becomes real.**

Before Jesus was distant, remote, unreal perhaps unexciting, but when the Holy Spirit dwells within you, you have a new revelation of Christ.

8. **The Hunger to Be Like Jesus Christ**

Galatians 5:19:24

The fruits of the old life is a distasteful list especially when compared with the fruits of the new nature.

Flowers are purely decorative, designed to show how nice we are.

Fruits have no decorative value, but they feed people.

People need to be able to FEED on our love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

9. **A Hunger to Serve Jesus Christ**

John 7:37 - 39

A mark of the Holy Spirit is a new **COMPASSION** for the world in which we live. A **DESIRE** to **SERVE** to be a **MEANS** of God fulfilling His work.

The Holy Spirit breeds a new servant spirit in our hearts; that is why He gives spiritual gifts [I Corinthians 12 – 14]. He first creates an appetite to serve and then He provides the means to serve.