



Transforming Power Of The Gospel

“... These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” (Acts 17:6b).

Bulletin VCAT54

11 September 2024

“When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. 5 But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. (Acts 17:1-9).

In this text we learn that:

- 1) Paul and Barnabas’ pioneering missionary work has at Thessalonica (vs 1), and they wasted no time in preaching Christ to the people.
- 2) Note the phrase “as his manner was” (vs 2). The preaching of the gospel was his manner. What is yours’?
- 3) He spent 3 Sabbath days reasoning with them about Christ (vs 3). No wonder he declared in Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”. Acts 4:12 further confirms that “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”. If we faithfully preach Christ, Jesus will faithfully

“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures” (Acts 17:2).

save people. The text confirmed that “some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few” (vs 4).

- 4) Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that “... the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”. A popular song encourages us that “if **you will preach it,...** some will believe and you will be rewarded some day”.
- 5) Paul and Sila’s success was so magnificent that the envious and unbelieving Jews mobilised others to stir up an uproar in the city “crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also**” (vs 6).
- 6) There is power in the gospel to transform and translate lives. “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).

God’s plea to you and me remain:

- 1) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).
- 2) “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye **receive not the grace of God in vain**” (2 Corinthians 6:1).

Be transformed and transform others.