

## “What Do People Say About You?”

⇒ **Text:** Acts 24:1-9

⇒ **Intro:**

- As you read the accounts of the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys you cannot help but notice what those that opposed Paul’s preaching of the gospel of grace of God had to say about him.
- From what was said about Paul, you can tell that Paul wasn’t out to try and please the crowd.
- He was not out to impress people and he could have of his worldly knowledge and his great speaking ability.
  - Paul told the Corinthians in
    - **1 Cor. 2:1**, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.”
    - **1 Cor. 2:4**, “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”
- He was not out to make a name and following for himself.
  - Paul purpose wherever you find him was to preach the gospel and make Christ known to his audience.
  - Paul said in **1 Cor. 2:2**, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
- The things that were said about the Apostle Paul were not complimentary by the world’s standard.
  - The world did not esteem him as some great theologian.
  - He did not get his name in the Sword of Lord.
  - He wasn’t a sought after speaker to have in for a Bible Conference.
    - In fact, Paul’s speech was described as being rude and at times his speech was contemptible.
  - He wasn’t asked to open in pray at the interfaith breakfast.
  - He wasn’t highly esteemed of man.
- Remember, what the Lord Jesus Christ had to say about being highly esteemed of men.
  - **Luke 16:15**, “...for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”
- Paul did not care what the world said or thought of him.
  - Paul was more interested in pleasing God.
  - He was going in the opposite direction that the world was going.
    - This is the direction every Christian should be going in.
- Paul wasn’t out to make friends and influence people.
  - He was out to make converts for Christ.
- Paul did not run around telling people to just love the Lord and keep looking up.
  - No, Paul told people if they did not trust in the death, burial, resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for the payment of their sins then they were going to split hell wide open.
- This morning I want us to look at four places in the Book of Acts and see what was said of the Apostle Paul as he journeyed preaching the death, the burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- As I begin, let ask you this question “What Do People Say About You?”

- I believe the things that were said about Paul should be said about each Christian if they mean business for God.
- ⇒ **I. Acts 16:16-24** - “...do exceedingly trouble our city.”- v. 20
- As Christians we need to “exceedingly trouble” the cities and towns around us with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - Because if we don’t the citizens of those cities and towns are going to wake up some day and find themselves troubled for all eternity in a literal lake of fire.
- ⇒ **II. Acts 17:1-9** – “...These that have turned the world upside down...” – v. 6
- As Christians we need to do as Paul the Apostle and those that followed him did.
    - We need to take this old world by the feet and turned it upside down.
    - This wicked, god rejecting world of ours needs to be shaken up and turned upside down.
    - How is this accomplished?
      - **See vs. 2-3.**
      - We need to reason with people out of the scriptures and preached the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - When you do that then you really upset the apple cart!
- ⇒ **III. Acts 19:23-29** – “...this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:” – v.26
- You see the number one false god, idol in Ephesus was Diana.
    - Folks in that town made a living by making little images of her to sell.
    - The idol makers wanted Paul to be stopped from preaching the gospel because it was going to put them out of business.
  - You know there was a time in this country where preaching almost put the liquor industry out of business.
    - It was the preaching of Billy Sunday and men like him that got the job done.
    - As a result -
      - On Midnight of January 16, 1920, one of the personal habits and customs of most Americans suddenly came to a halt.
      - The Eighteenth Amendment was put into effect and all importing, exporting, transporting, selling, and manufacturing of intoxicating liquor was put to an end.
      - It was repealed 13 years later by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on December 5, 1933 under President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.
  - You know as Christians it should be said of us, “that we persuade and turn away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands.”
    - We need to tell and persuade folks from the Word of God to stop trusting in their false gods of –
      - Religion
      - Good works
      - Commandments and traditions of men
      - To pay for their sins and get them to heaven.
    - We need to clearly show them from the word of God, that if they want their sins forgiven and know that they are going to heaven when they die.
      - Then they need to place their faith and trust in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else.
- ⇒ **IV. Acts 24:1-9** – “...we have found this man a pestilent fellow,...” – v. 5

- That word pestilent means troublesome, making a disturbance.
- You see when you make a disturbance then you wake people up.
  - As Christians we need to be in business of waking people up to the fact that if they don't get saved then they will end up in a lake of fire for all eternity.
- In the word pestilent, I see the word "pest".
  - Pest is something that you can't get rid of.
  - As Christians sometimes we need to be pests when it comes to gospel.
  - We need to trouble people with it.
  - We need to be persistent about it.
  - We read in the Book of Acts in Chapter 14 where the Apostle Paul was stoned and left for dead.
    - That did not stop him because he got up and when right back into the city and preached Christ crucified.
    - Paul was pest to those who rejected the gospel but to those who believed he was a like a glass of cold water to a thirsty soul.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- I asked you at the beginning of this message – "What Do People Say About You?"
- They should be saying about you the same things that they said about the Apostle, Paul.
  - "...do exceedingly trouble our city."
  - "...These that have turned the world upside down..."
  - "...hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:"
  - "...we have found this man a pestilent fellow,..."
- If people are not saying these things about you then probably you have become a friend of this word.
  - **James 4:4** – "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
- My friend if people aren't saying the same things that they said about Paul, then you need to check yourself out at this old fashion altar this morning.
  - Ask God to help you be a mighty witness for Him.
- My friend if you are here today and not saved.
  - Don't know for sure when you die that you will go to heaven.
  - Then like Paul I am here.
    - To trouble you.
    - Turn you upside down
    - Persuade you turn away from your false gods.
    - To Pester you to get saved.
- I do all of this because like Paul did, I have burden for your never dying soul.
  - I want you to know today before you leave that your sins have been forgiven and heaven is your home.
  - Won't you come to this old fashion altar and get saved?
  - Won't you call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save you?
  - It is very simple to be saved.

- Do as the word of God instructs you – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- Won't you be saved today?

