

Turning the World Upside Down: Introduction

6.7.20 // Acts 17:1-9 & 1 Thessalonians 1:1 // Pastor Rob

Through the ages Christians have been accused of many things. We've been accused of being judgmental, narrow-minded, even apathetic to the problems going on in the world. But in the first century after going to the city of Thessalonica, Christians were accused of "Turning the world upside down!" Of course this was not a compliment from their accusers, but we can imagine that to them it was. In other words, the coming of the gospel changed things. It made the world better. When the church acted like the church, things were more just and those far from God were brought near. All were invited even though all didn't come. As we seek to be the church of Jesus in our day, this study of 1 Thessalonians will help us see a biblical vision for Seaside and the church around the world.

Community Group Questions:

In order for us to understand the letter of 1 Thessalonians, we need to know what was happening when the church got planted there. Have someone in your group summarize some of the events of Acts 16 as well as answer the question, "Who is the Apostle Paul?"

Read Acts 17:1-9

What were the three things Paul said about Jesus in his gospel presentation (v3)? Why are all three significant?

What types of people responded positively? What does this reveal about who the gospel is for?

What was the reaction to the gospel and the charge brought against the believers (v5-8)?

What does the complaint about Jesus being King reveal about the gospel Paul preached?

As we go through this series, we'll talk in more detail about 5 ways the church "turns the world upside down," but for this week take some to share in your group significant even radical ways believing the gospel has changed you! Be specific.

Homework: Read 1 Thessalonians in one sitting or even better do it several times this week. What themes are you noticing? What passages are speaking to your soul in this moment?