

Sermon Notes

The Life of Paul and Evangelism Lessons

From His Message to Athens

Part VI

I. Life of Paul.

A. His Apostolic authority.

1. Importance of Canon.
2. Early replacement of Judas.
 - a. Acts 1:15-16, 22-26
 - b. Casting of lots – Old Testament. Proverbs 16:32
 - c. Did Paul replace Mathias or was his apostleship different from the twelve.
 1. Galatians 1:18; 2:1-2, 7-10

B. Paul's conversion.

1. His changed life is emphasized in the New Testament.
2. Note Luke's multiple accounts.
 - a. Acts 9:1-9; 22:1-11; 26:4-18

II. Exposition (Reciting of the text)

A. Verse 29.

1. Idolatry transgresses the Law of God.
 - a. Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10

B. Verse 30.

1. "Therefore." Concluding argument.
2. To "overlook." In what sense has God overlooked sins of the past? Also noted in Acts 3:17-18 and Paul's preaching at Lystra – Acts 14:16.

- a. The nations are not excused. With the proclamation of the gospel, times of ignorance have come to an end. Sins of the past were tolerated. Now God is ready to forgive **His people's** sins that were committed in the past as well as nations today who hear the gospel and repent from their sin.

3. Repentance.

- a. "Permanent command of perpetual force," A. J. Robertson.
- b. Jesus' stern remarks: Luke 13:1-5
- c. Fundamental point of all gospel preaching.

4. Judgment – terrifying prospect of God's omniscient scrutiny.

- a. On Judgment – Ps. 9:8; 96:13; 98:9
- b. On Scrutiny – Ps. 90:8; Romans 2:15-16
- c. Jesus as Judge – John 5:22, 27

5. Resurrection.

- a. Proof of truth.
 1. I Thessalonians 1:9-10

III. Points for Reflection.

- A. Paul's teaching that God "overlooked the times of ignorance." does not mean that God has different standards of judgment.
- B. The requirement of repentance is the requirement of all evangelism.
- C. Felt needs are not the basis for evangelism, while man's most urgent need is the basis of evangelism – the wrath of God.