JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

Y FILLED COMMUNITIES

ERY OPPORTUNITY

2023

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

SOUTH

, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit baptized with the Holy Spirit not many to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffer- They had come together, they asked him, ing by many proofs, appeing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of / (kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be days from now." The Ascension 6 So when "Lord, will you at this time restore the is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

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ACTS 17:1-34

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.



If you build it, they will come.

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If you become like Him, you will go to them.

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble,

they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed. ¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said,

"What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.



• The foundation of the Unstoppable Church – God met us in our brokenness and sin.

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ − by grace you have been saved.

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



- Our foundation God met us in our brokenness and sin.
- Just as God did with us, so does Paul with each city he goes to.
 - Thessalonica

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 - Thessalonica
 - Some were persuaded to join Paul and Silas
 - Frustrated Jews formed a mob
 - "These men who have turned the world upside down..."



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 - Berea
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- The response always varies, just as it did in your own life.
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Received the word with all eagerness
 - Many believed
 - Same Jews from Thessalonica chase them out



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 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Athens
- The response always varies, just as it did in your own life.
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Athens
 - Some believed and some mocked



God transforms us through the truth of His Son.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.' 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

• There is one true God.

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- God is the Creator of everything.

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- Jesus defeated sin and death.
- God's holiness demands a response of faith and repentance.
- God will judge the earth in righteousness and save those who are found in Jesus' righteousness.



God transforms us through the truth of His Son.

God meets us where we are at.

God transforms us through the truth of His Son.

God sends us to seek the lost.

Romans 10:13-15

¹³ For 'everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.' 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.'



• You are who you are and where you are on account of God's wisdom and sovereignty.

- You are who you are and where you are on account of God's wisdom and sovereignty.
 - Family
 - Work
 - Neighbors
 - Friendships
 - Kids



- You are who you are and where you are on account of God's wisdom and sovereignty.
- View the world as a spiritual Field of Dreams.

John 4:35

³⁵ Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

- You are who you are and where you are on account of God's wisdom and sovereignty.
- View the world as a spiritual Field of Dreams.
- Share the Joy intentionally making disciples wherever we go.



- The power of a multiplication minded church
 - If a pastor of a 300 person church invests in the faith of 50 people yet to believe each year, in 5 years it would be...
 - Year 5: 250 people



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 - If a pastor of a 300 person church invests in the faith of 50 people yet to believe each year, in 5 years it would be...
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 - If each person we invested in became a disciple and repeated the process with us each year:
 - Year 5: 9,600 people



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 - "RCC has turned the world upside down"



Takeaways

God meets us where we are at.

Remember God's incredible love for you in your spiritual death.

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God transforms us through the truth of His Son.

Seek even more transformation in your relationship with Jesus.

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God meets us where we are at.

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God sends us to seek the lost.

 Seek out opportunities for God's love and wisdom to overflow to those around you.

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