

Blessed To Be A Blessing – September 25, 2011

The World Turned Upside Down

“But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.” Acts 17:6

Day after day the news media, friends, and family pound us with the refrain that the world is going to “hell in a hand-basket”. Political gurus strain with every fiber of their being to convince us they know why life is not as good as it used to be and that they have the solution to make it better. No doubt there is a great deal of suffering in the world and that decent values are constantly ignored in favor of personal satisfaction. Would you expect any less of sinful mortals who are driven by a sinful will and flesh? Discouraged parents don't see a “better life” for their children, while hard working individuals don't see much hope for comfortable and happy senior years and retirees are overwhelmed by the accelerated economic demands that produce worries about the basic necessities of life. Anger intensifies in us and amongst our neighbors as people grow tired of being pushed by the stresses of life. If one were to step back for just a moment it might make you wonder if things are really that bad or if like spoiled children we whine about being unjustly treated because we don't get our own way. One thing is for certain, an undercurrent of boiling resolve bubbles up into the geography of our lives....if we had the chance we would set them on their ear and turn the world upside down. We would make things right again and restore the hopefulness of the “good old days”.

In actuality, if one really studied the triumphs of the good old days they might find out that they weren't so good after all. Mankind has always been infected by sin since the Fall of Adam and Eve, and God's perfect creation groans also under the weight of that sin and its effects. Not unlike observing a landscape of mountains and valleys, the sacred record of Holy Scripture chronicles the times of peace and unrest that mark the history of God's people. While living in the “valley” the prospects of a better life are unthinkable and unattainable. As Christians we come to understand the

burdens and crosses of life are at times a direct result of our own failings and sinfulness and at other times we learn that they are tests from God to refine our faith. But God uses even the tribulations of life which He allows us to traverse to bless and encourage us. And like ages of believers before us even in the midst of the gloom and doom we have the opportunity to “turn the world upside down”!

Each time we share the good news of Jesus with someone we turn the world upside down. Christ’s death and resurrection to pay for our sin and grant us life everlasting is a treasure greater than all the wealth in the world. It brings a peace that the world can never give and creates in us a joy the world cannot understand. As we pray that the kingdom of God would come, let us then be open to being His witnesses in bringing that kingdom message to others...that the gloom and doom of this world’s sin, death, and hell might be turned upside down as sinners rejoice in the new life they have in Jesus.

Pastor Jacobs

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