

"CERTAIN STRANGE THINGS", #1

INTRODUCTION

The word "strange" has several Biblical ideas. Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire" unto the Lord which He had not commanded. Peter said some people think Christians are "strange" for not engaging in their riotous conduct. Then, the Epicureans in Athens, Greece heard Paul's message and said they were hearing "certain strange things," because they did not know them, and wanted to know more. This lesson will be the first in a series on "CERTAIN STRANGE THINGS" that Paul presented on Mars Hill.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Paul preached on the NATURE OF GOD.

- A. The Athenians had been accustomed to "many gods" (idols), made of material things, such as gold, silver, bronze, stone or wood, and they would dedicate their worship to these gods. Acts 17:16; cf 1 Cor. 8:4-6
1. They were devoted to these gods, and Paul commended them for their devotion, which was misdirected. Acts 17:22; cf ASV
 2. He commented on their inscription, with the concept of identifying "the unknown god", with the idea of giving them more information about the true God of heaven as being the one "unknown" God whom they ignorantly worshiped.
- B. What did Paul say about this God?
1. 1st, Paul said the God he represented was the **CREATOR**, the One who made the world and all things therein. Acts 17:24; Isa. 40:27-28
 - a. The Athenians had no idea as to the origin of the universe.
 - b. They thought that somehow it had always existed and would always be there.
 2. 2nd, this God is also the **LORD**, or ruler of all, and there are no other gods or lords over Him. (v. 24)
 3. 3rd, this God doesn't **DWELL** in man-made temples, but is the Lord of HEAVEN, where He resides and has His headquarters. (v. 24)
 4. 4th, this God is not **WORSHIPED** with "men's hands", as though He **needed** such worship to exist, as they offered their idol worship to please him, through the idols that men's hands had formed. (v. 24); cf Isa. 45:9-20 (Read & comment)
 5. 5th, this God is **ALIVE**, and is the One to **gives** life to human beings. v. 25-28

II. 2nd, let's think about the CREATION OF THE WORLD AND MAN.

- A. The world consists of the whole earth and all the heavenly bodies.
1. Surely Paul reminded them of the truths expressed elsewhere in scripture. Gen. 1:1; 2:1; Neh. 9:6; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 11:3
 2. Six times in Gen. 1, God said "Let" certain things occur, and six times it is said, "and it was so."
 - a. In the judgment day, many are going to realize for the first time (but too late) that what God said to do to be saved "was so" after all.
 - b. Many will then learn that what GOD said about baptism was so when it will be too late for them to be baptized in water.
 - c. Many will learn that the **only standard** of authority was the word of the Lord. John 12:48
 - d. Many will learn that what GOD said about the **one church** of the Lord "was so" after all, but they were not in it. Acts 2:47; Eph.5:23

e. Many will learn that the Lord's Supper had been a weekly requirement, and not something observed twice a year—at Easter and Christmas.

B. God's crowning achievement of creation was **man**, who was given the breath of life with common blood and an eternal soul that shall exist forever.

1. Moses and Paul are 2 of the greatest writers the world has ever known, as Moses wrote by inspiration of God, and recorded the first 5 books of the Bible (including the ten commandments), along with Paul, also by inspiration of God, together wrote over 200 chapters of the Bible.

2. Both of these scholars testify to the miraculous creation of human life, and they leave absolutely **no** room for evolution. Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 9:6 cf Acts 17:25, 26, 28-29

3. One of the greatest tragedies of our time is the teaching of the theory of evolution, and we can spell it "e-v-i-l" ution.

a. Some deny that God is the Creator of life, and therefore claim the right to take human life of babies by abortion, and determine for themselves what is right and wrong.

b. More and more we are living by the law of the jungle, and it is fast becoming the survival of the fittest and the strongest and the oldest.

c. Some try to hold on to a little religion while advocating the theory of evolution, and they do not mix together any more than oil and water.

CONCLUSION

I. People today think Christians are "strange" for believing in a miraculous creation of the world and of mankind, and some day ever human shall face the Creator. Heb. 9:27

A. The Lord will be a "stranger" (not a friend) to many, because they did not know Him in this life.

B. Friends of Jesus are the obedient. John 15:14; 14:15

II. Won't you become a friend of the Lord now by confessing your faith in Him as the Son of God, repenting of every sin and be immersed in water to become a Christian?