

“CERTAIN STRANGE THINGS,” #2

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lesson, we observed that when Paul encountered the Greek philosophers as recorded in Acts 17, he preached about JESUS. The hearers said Paul was talking about strange gods, and certain strange things they had not heard before. This opened the door for Paul to preach his famous sermon on Mars Hill about the unknown God. We pointed out that Paul preached on the nature of the true God, and His creative acts. THIS lesson today will deal more with what Paul said about JESUS and the RESURRECTION—both of which were “certain strange things” to the ears of the Grecian philosophers.

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, Paul preached about JESUS on Mars Hill.

- A. Evidently, Paul had already preached some things about Jesus prior to his sermon on the unknown God presented on Mars Hill.
1. Luke says he preached “Jesus and the resurrection.” Acts 17:17-18
 - a. This caused them to be upset at Paul, though curious about what he said.
 - b. They brought Paul to Areopagus (or Mars Hill), and asked to know more about Jesus.
 2. Jesus is not mentioned again, until He is alluded to in verse 31. (Discuss).
- B. What **could** Paul have said about Christ that is not recorded, that the scripture reveals?
1. 1st, Paul **could** have pointed out that this Jesus came from heaven itself, as an infant, born of a virgin woman named Mary.
 2. 2nd, Paul **could** have pointed out that this Jesus was the “only begotten Son of God” in that He was the only being who was EVER or was ever TO BE begotten by the God of heaven, by means of a physical birth. Luke 1:30-35; cf John 1:14; 3:16
 3. 3rd, Paul **could** have preached that Jesus lived a perfect life on earth AS the Son of God, and was crucified on the cross, fulfilling what God had planned for him—to become the Savior of the lost world.
 4. 4th, Paul **could** have preached that Jesus was raised from the dead, which he DID allude to later in his sermon on Mars Hill itself. Acts 17:31
 5. 5th, Paul **could** have preached that Jesus ascended into heaven to become the Lord of salvation. Cf Acts 2:32-36
 6. 6th, Paul **could** have preached that Christ offers salvation from sin to all who obey Him. Acts 2:38
 7. 7th, Paul **could** have preached that Jesus is going to come again, and raise the dead, which he alluded to later in verse 31.
 8. 8th, Paul **could** have preached that Jesus is to be the final judge in the last day, which he DID allude to in verse 31.

II. In the 2nd place, Paul DID preach about the Resurrection.

- A. He may have talked about the temporal resurrection of some in the Old Testament.
1. There was the widow’s son raised by Elijah the prophet.
 2. There was the widow’s son at Nain raised by Jesus Himself.
 3. There was the resurrection of Lazarus, raised by this Jesus.
 4. There was the resurrection of dead bodies who came forth at Jesus’ crucifixion.
 5. There was the resurrection of Dorcas, raised by one of Jesus’ apostles.
- B. Here is what we DO know that Paul DID preach.

1. He preached the resurrection of the dead in connection with preaching about “Jesus”. v. 31
2. He mentioned One who was to be raised from the dead as being the One who would become the Judge of all men—clearly referring to Jesus. v. 31
 - a. He also declared that God once winked at their ignorance of knowing about Jesus.
 - b. He also declared that God was now holding them responsible, and that they must “repent” of their sins. v. 30
 - c. Paul declared that the reason God requires repentance is because He will judge all men BY that One who had been crucified and raised from the dead. v. 32

CONCLUSION

- I. What Paul DID preach about Jesus being raised opened up interest on the part of the philosophers, as some mocked, and others were still curious, but some believed. v. 34
 - A. The truth of what Paul preached is still true today, as Jesus, the resurrected Coming Judge of the earth, requires obedience on the part of all men. v. 30-31
 - B. There are some OTHER things Paul preached in that great sermon that are worthy of our attention, that we shall examine later.
- II. If you are lost in sin, you need to come to Jesus while He IS our Savior, before the time of His becoming your judge.

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