

Preaching the Creation in Acts 14, 17, Romans 1
9-29-13

I. The Impact of Creation

A. Paul's preaching to Gentiles

1. Acts 14

- a. Paul's point is simple – the creation has God written all over it
 - (1) the truth of a God is found in a creation
 - (2) the truth of a single God is found in a single creation
 - (3) the truth of a living God is found in an ongoing existing creation
- b. All men are the same
 - (1) If all men are the same, then one God would be over all
- c. The creation is proof of God's love for man
 - (1) It has provided for man since the dawn of time
 - (2) Like manna, only when man abused it have we lacked

2. Acts 17

- a. God is not a part of creation and cannot be established by it
- b. God's love for man is revealed in man's mortality – a “pre-appointed” time is not about the rise and fall of nations, but the mortality of man
 - (1) Why did God remove Adam from the garden? So that because a consequence existed for sin, man would seek God for salvation

3. Romans 1

- a. What is known about God is apparent in man
 - (1) Man has a spirit (Eccl 12:7), soul (Ezek 17) and flesh; man in 3 parts
 - (2) All elements are in three parts (solid, liquid, gas)
 - (3) The affection of a father, a husband, a son are all found in God& man

II. Paul points out that we can learn from the Creation:

A. The Theme of Creation teaches us of the common need for salvation (Mal 2:10)

- 1. Since Noah man became intent on the divisions of race, language, nationality
- 2. The creation brings back simple principles – all men originate from one place
 - a. Sin is a universal problem for man (Rom 3:23)
 - b. in the appropriate context, this passage refers to all nations of men rather than all men individually, as is used by denominations

B. It teaches us what it means to be subject to Law (Jeremiah 5:22 Psalm 19:1-7)

- 1. the nature of being subject to Law is found in creation
 - a. Law is absolute, not arbitrary (Gen1:24)
 - (1) The Law of nature does not change, does not sometimes bend
 - (a) horses do not sometimes give birth to cows, or monkeys to humans; the law has remained constant
 - b. Law is universal, not local
- 2. In the Law of Nature we see the truths of the Law of Christ
 - a. First, we determine that there is a Law of Christ (Gal 6:2, etc)
 - b. If it is law, then natural law reveals it is absolute, not arbitrary (1 Pet 1:25)
 - c. If it is law, then all men are saved in a like manner

C. The Creation reflects that which God makes without free will

- 1. It was made for us, not part of us (Gen 1:28)
- 2. We are the pinnacle of creation (Gen 1:26)