
Sermon Text Discussion 2/4/18

“I Have Many In This City Who Are My People” (Acts 18:1-22) by Drew Hunter

Overview

It is important to remember that we are part of the exciting story of Acts, Jesus is still directing the spread of the gospel, and so we should read Acts as an encouragement to continue the mission. This passage shows us three realities of living on mission:

- 1) The Strategies of Mission (Acts 18:1-4)
 - a. Cities
 - b. Partnerships
 - c. Working
 - d. Gospel Conversations
- 2) The Results of Mission (Acts 18:5-8)
 - a. Gospel rejection
 - b. Gospel growth
- 3) The Hope of Mission (Acts 18:9-22)
 - a. Jesus promises his presence
 - b. Jesus promises protection
 - c. Jesus promises that people will be saved

One of the things that should encourage us in spreading the gospel is the truth of election: that God sovereignly chooses those who will be saved and gives them the grace to believe. Believing this can give us hope, make us patient, and push us to dependence in all our efforts to see people become believers in Christ.

Quotations

“So far from making evangelism pointless the sovereignty of God in grace is the one thing that prevents evangelism from being pointless. For it creates the possibility—indeed, the certainty—that evangelism will be fruitful” - J. I. Packer

“At the beginning of my missionary career I said that if predestination were true I could not be a missionary. Now after 20 years of struggling with the hardness of the human heart, I say I could never be a missionary unless I believed in the doctrine of predestination” – John Alexander, as quoted by John Piper

Understanding & Application

- 1) Do any of Paul's missionary strategies give you ideas of how you might be more intentional in getting the gospel in front of more people?
- 2) Despite the diversity of places Paul ministered, he always got the same responses: some rejected the gospel, and some believed it. How can this reality shape the way you approach personal evangelism?
- 3) This passage presents the doctrine of election as an encouragement to evangelism rather than a deterrent. Explain how that can be the case in your own words.
- 4) Who is someone in your life that you've lost hope will ever trust Christ? Do you find any encouragement from this story?
- 5) With whom could you seek to have a gospel conversation this week?