

The Sect Everywhere Spoken Against

Acts 28:22

Introduction:

- A. The church enjoyed early popularity (Acts 2:47) – but things changed (Acts 28:22).
 - 1. We must accept the fact that the true church does not appeal to the masses (cf. Matt. 7:13,14)
 - 2. We can expect it to be favorably received by many honest hearts (Luke 8:15)
- B. There are three basic reasons for the church's unpopularity by the end of Acts.

Discussion:

I. The Doctrine Taught.

- A. The doctrine of one God was unpopular to the pagan world (Acts 17:16-32; Eph 4:4-6)
- B. The doctrine of Jesus Christ was unpopular to the Jewish world (Acts 17:1-5; 1 Cor 1:23)
 - 1. His deity.
 - 2. His universal mission (Acts 22:21-22)
- C. Bible doctrine is often unpopular with to modern religion.
 - 1. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21)
 - 2. One church (Eph. 4:4; Matt. 16:18)
 - 3. Godly living (1 John 2:15; Tit. 2:11,12)

II. The Tactics Used.

- A. They aggressively pressed the battle for truth.
 - 1. To the world (Acts 17:1,2; 17:16, 17)
 - 2. To false brethren (Gal. 2:4-5)
- B. They often identified error with it advocates (III John 9; 2 Tim. 2:17,18).
- C. They spoke what was profitable, rather than popular (Acts 20:20; 1 Tim. 5:20).

III. The Results Produced.

- A. They sometimes caused an “uproar.” (Acts 16:19-24; 17:5-9, 18, 32; 18:12-17).
- B. They could expect such (Matt. 5:11; 2 Tim. 3:12).
- C. People do not give up the “perks” of sin easily.
 - 1. The pleasures of sin.
 - 2. The power and prestige of sinful positions.

Conclusion:

- A. Do not let unjust criticism get you down.
 - 1. Make sure that is unjust.
 - 2. Proceed with knowledge that truth is not the most popular course.
 - 3. Conformity brings no criticism (cf. Rom. 12:2).
- B. Remember: “Great is your reward in heaven...”