

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 17:17-33

Lord's Day 4.9-11 #2

**SINGING:** 395:1-4 – 14:1, 4, 5, 10 – 137:1-3, 6 – 451:1, 6

**Reflection:** *What have you done with Jesus' precise and devastating report?*

- A. Are you walking away without a stirring?
- B. Are you convicted as you sense the truth of each line of Jesus' report?
1. Convictions of sin and guilt are good but not for a pillow
  2. Many common responses make the case worse: *examine if any are yours!*
- C. Jesus commands one response: *Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ* (Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30b; 20:21)

**YOU ARE COMMANDED TO REPENT UPON HEARING THE TRUTH**

I. Who is commanding II. What is the command

I. Who is commanding us to repent?

- A. Setting of this command: Paul's sermon to a heathen audience
1. He preached as *a godly man filled with holy anger* (Acts 17:16; Deut. 9:18)
  2. He preached much like we heard: *truths from Genesis 1-2 in Acts 17:24-29*
    - a. He claimed that the evidence of God is everywhere
      - in His creation and providence: 24-26
      - in their conscience: 27-28
    - b. He claimed their religion was worthless: vs. 29-31
- B. God is commanding you all to repent (30b)
1. What is a *command* of God?
    - a. what does it **not** say?
    - b. what does it say?
  2. What do you do with this command?
- C. Who is He Who commands this?
1. Him Who has been *incredibly patient over our ignorance* (vs. 30a)
  2. Him Who has appointed the day for *your judgment* (vs. 31)

## II. WHAT IS HIS COMMAND?

A. His command cannot be delayed

B. His command knows of no exemption

C. His command demands repentance: *what is that?*

1. Begins with a fundamental change of your *thinking*

Jer. 24:7 *And I will give them a **heart to know** me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they **shall return unto me** with **their whole heart.*** (Joel 2:12)

2. This change of thinking flows *into emotions, will and actions: **Examine!***

D. God commands now all men everywhere to repent

1. There is a pressing reason for this repentance today: Job 34:10-11

2. Begin to search yourself for we are not certain the next hour: Ps. 90:12

3. Name and shame your sins God as you learn to see them: Jer 3:13; Ps. 32:5

4. Do not think ‘saying sorry’ is the same as ‘being sorry’: Ps. 51:16-17

### **CONSIDER ...**

A. God’s grace is to encourage you to repent today: Joel 2:12-13

B. God’s promise is that whosoever **believes** shall be saved (today): John 5:24

### **FOLLOW UP THOUGHTS ...**

Please, take time to ponder and pray about the following truths

1. Though after this life repentance is perpetual, it is in vain. (Augustine)
2. He who beats his heart, but does not mend his ways, does not remove his sins but hardens them. (Augustine)
3. Sin may be the occasion of great sorrow when there is no sorrow for sin. (John Owen)
4. Repentance is not a feeling or a longing. It is an action.
5. Our repentance needs to be repented of, and our tears washed in the blood of Christ. (George Whitefield)