

**Intro:** From a Human perspective the origin of RTBC goes all the way back to a man named Ken Fenner President of Cape St. Johns Homeowners Association when the Riva Trace Community was proposed., Gary Pyles, Developer that was creating the RT subdivision set aside 6 acres for “Church” When the development site plan was presented to the St Johns Assoc. Ken saw the site and asked...Would you Consider? There have been literally THOUSANDS of people around the world touched: China, India, Mexico, DR, Cuba, Philippines Because ONE man had the courage to step up and speak:

All of that to say, every time I read the passage that I’m preaching on this morning I hear Ken’s voice: Acts 19:6 King James version says...The men who have “*turned the world upside down*” have come here I can hear Ken say, Pastor, they didn’t turn the world upside down...they turned it right side up! And that is my goal for our new sermon series. I want to help YOU turn YOUR world “Right Side Up!”

Start A New Series I am Titling, Living UP in a DOWN World! 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Year: Aliens/Strangers: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Impact Pull those together...and over the next 6 or 12 months talk about: How do WE (Aliens Up People, Impact our Down World!) Acts 17:1-9 Pg 785

It is really a series on Priorities: Here is the premise of what I am going to be talking about...Most of us live UPSIDE DOWN! Should be: God, Family, Work, Church, Other: Rest, Recreation, Celebration: Instead: Rest, Recreation, Celebration, First...Work, Then Family, Church/God gets the leftovers! Because we live upside down...our lives are constantly out of balance. Recreation and Work get the Lions Share...Leftovers And as a result our lives do not have the Impact on our world that they should...We lose our ability to make a difference

The Goal of this series is to help us “Turn our Worlds...Right Side Up!” Both Personally....and Others Around Us Problem is, everything around us screams for us to live upside down! If we are going to do it...Paul shows us How

### 1. Pick The Right Place and People To Begin. Vs 1

- Know Your Goal: Apostle Paul lived in a world like ours...upside down...and His Goal was to CHANGE IT!
- Prayerfully Pick the right Place: Paul passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia (significant cities, but not the place)
- Stopped at Thessalonica (THE major city on trade route...regional capital...Synagogue) Mixed Results
- Moved On When Needed: Berea (50 miles away, Another Synagogue, Open to his message)

#### 2 Keys:

- #1: Look for those that are open to your message! (Always Started w/ person of peace) Cuba: Bike flat tire Lu 9:5 *If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town,*
- #2: Never underestimate the impact of your “failures!” (2 NT books to Thess, How many to Berea?) 1Co 1:27 *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things*

### 2. Find The Right Place And People To Begin Reprioritizing. Vs 2-4

We like the “one size fits all” Kind of approach to talking to people about spiritual things. That is NOT the way Jesus or Paul did it. Notice what the bible says here in this passage Paul used Different Ways With Different People

#### 5 Different Ways Paul Impacted People

- Lifestyle: *Not just 3 weeks: Language of Thess spent a great deal of time: 3 speaking opportunities*  
**Custom:** Regular habit to start with those that were MOST open!  
Synagogue would be full of God-Fearing Jewish people hoping for the Messiah!  
So Paul would START there...they were the most likely to be open to his message  
Invested large amount of time: Wasn’t a One time Shot...and Out! Built relationships  
**Illus:** *When we get to Work: Study Group material available to hand out and teach!*
- Reasoned: *To talk about thoroughly; To select, distinguish and dialogue about ideas*  
Paul did not just Stand and Say, “Thus saith the Lord!” He Talked about it!  
To exchange ideas, To Say, “What do YOU think?” and then interact and discuss  
**Illus:** *Throughout the year start new small groups here at church*
- Explained: *To open and interpret the scriptures*  
Used on the Road to Emmaus: Jesus was explaining the OT to the disciples Luke 24:32  
Used of Jesus explaining and opening peoples understanding of the Scriptures  
So Paul would do what we do...Stand with the OT Scriptures in his hand...and explain!  
**Illus:** *ABS classes, fantastic! So many have talked about Genesis, power of study together*
- Proved: *To make a statement...and then to place Scripture alongside and say...Look...It matches!*  
Not just saying, “This is what I think” Because honestly...who cares!?  
Instead you say...This is what I think...Because the Scripture Says: !!!!!  
You make a statement and then the bible is placed right alongside to support and prove

- **Proclaimed:** *To Stand and Preach*, to proclaim the truth without apology  
In Cor the Apostle Paul calls it the foolishness of preaching...  
Meaning...there are times when you simply need to say, **THUS SAITH THE LORD!**  
And trust that the Holy Spirit will take that word and apply it to the hearts of people  
That is one that we are short on in our culture...We don't want to offend!  
Paul's message was so clear! **Jesus must Suffer, Rise from the Dead, He is the Messiah!**

If you are going to "Turn Your World Right Side Up!" And by that I mean:

- Get your **PERSONAL** life and priorities in order
- And impat those around you to do the same...

Then you have to understand...it isn't a one way approach...either to **YOURSELF**...or to **OTHERS!**

### 3. Accept The Reality of Opposition.

Vs 6

Never think for a moment that you are going to be able to reorder priorities...Yours...or Others...W/O trouble

**Jealous:** lit = *heated emotions or anger, such that they move you to action*

- Gathered people in opposition (Rallied the troops!)
- Stirred People Up (Create disturbance)
- Stood in opposition (At the house)
- Accosted and Accused friends (Dragged Jason and other believers to court!)

When you begin to address the status quo and rearrange priorities you can **EXPECT** that it will not be easy!

It will not be easy in your own life

And it will not be easy for others

And those that **LIKE** what is...will do everything in their power to keep you from getting things where they **SHOULD BE!**

**Illus:** Think of it this way: Make a NY resolution, says, I'm going to spiritually get my house in order, Kids etc

It is like all hell breaks loose! Trouble, problems, Scheduling ect That doesn't work...Great stuff to distract you  
**OR**

**Illus:** Find someone that is interested in starting to focus on their spiritual life, and coming to church and bringing family

Watch to see just how many different things stand in the way! **Sickness, Struggle, Opportunities, Problems**

### 4. Make Sure You Keep Your Message Clear!

Vs 7-9

- **You Are Defying the Current World Order!**  
Lit = You are being opposed to the dogma of the current world system!!!
- There is another King!!! (Not the One in Rome!)
- Notice something here:  
Paul didn't talk about priorities...as important as they are!  
Didn't talk about problems...even though God wants to help you overcome them  
Didn't talk about plans...though God has plans for you!  
Didn't talk about Going to Church (Synagogue)  
He talked about **JESUS!**
- You see, our message is not: Get your priorities right...Find a Solution to your problems, Get good plans, Go Church  
The **MESSAGE** is: You need Jesus! When you have that relationship right...Priorities, Problems, Plans, Church  
All falls into place!

### CONCL:

Here is the question I want to ask you today...One Simple little Question:

Is there a King in **YOUR** life...And if there is...Is his name:

Work?	Church?
Problems?	Recreation?
Money?	Fun?
Plans?	Family?
Sports?	

Because the reality is...The **ONLY** King that is worthy to be in control...

The only trustworthy one...

Only one you can Count on..

Is Jesus

Listen to this....