



Message Five—A DIFFERENCE-MAKING COMMUNITY

Acts 17:6

Pastor Mike Chapman

In this series from Acts, our purpose has been to hold two pictures in juxtaposition—the picture of the ancient church and the picture of the present church and to decide how the future can look more ancient. We have seen that the ancient church was a *transforming, Spirit-driven, connected and transforming* church. As a result they were also a *difference-making* church. From Acts 17:6, we read, "*These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.*" (ESV)

THESE MEN

Three words describe the ancient church.

(1) **Purpose**

They were driven by the mission of Jesus.

(2) **Passion**

Revelation 3:15-20, *You are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other. But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. You claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need. But you don't know how bad off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked...Listen! I am standing and knocking*

at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together. (CEV)

(3) **Price-payers**

The person who has a “why” to live can endure any “what” or “how.”

THE WORLD

The ancient church carried out the mission of Jesus in a **hostile** world.

There was **philosophical** hostility.

There was **cultural** hostility.

There was **volatile** hostility.

*Despite the hostility, there was a **receptivity** to the Gospel.*

There was Lydia praying by a river in Philippi.

There was a jailer in a crisis.

There were a number of God-fearing Gentiles and some notable women in Thessalonica.

There were some Jews studying the Scriptures in Berea.

There were a few Greeks at Mars Hill like Dionysius and Damaris.

TURNED

There is one thing that is clear in the book of Acts: the ancient church could not be **ignored**.

It was a community that had impact and influence.

There was a shift that began to occur within the Roman Empire.