

Sermon: May 16, 2010

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Title: When Good News Challenges The Secular World

Acts 16:16-34 suggests to us that there are times when our Christian Faith may have ramification in the marketplace. Faith in God and in Jesus Christ just may affect the bottom line of someone who is exploiting others for a profit. And when we faithfully share the Gospel and when we let our actions flow out of that Gospel, we may face some negative responses from the community around us.

Call to Worship: *Adapted from Psalm 97*

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;

Let the distant shores rejoice.

Clouds and thick darkness surround God;

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne.

Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side;

God's lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,

Before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness,

And all the peoples see God's Glory.

Those who worship idols and boast in idols are put to shame.

Worship God! All you gods.

Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad

Because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth

You are exalted far above all gods.

Let those who love the Lord hate evil.

For God guards the lives of the faithful ones.

And delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is shed upon the righteous

And joy on the upright in heart

Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous,

And praise God's Holy Name!

Hymns: # 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

282 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

554 Let All Things Now Living

Prayer of Confession: by Lavon Baylor

Most high God, we confess that we have used others for our own gain. We benefit from the labors of many who are exploited and impoverished. We resist the rule of love and turn away from those who cry for help. We seek to settle differences with weapons of war rather than work for the unity you intend for your children. Take our misplaced loyalties and turn them around, so we serve your purposes instead of our own. Amen.

Commission and Blessing

The world needs your work for unity and peace;

Go out, proclaiming the good news of Christ.

We have known the love of God,

And that love sends us forth to serve.

Witness to our Creator, who is not defeated,

But always has the last word.

We seek for all access to the tree of life

And refreshment from the water of life.

God reigns; let the earth rejoice;

Give thanks to God's holy name.

The light dawns for all who seek righteousness,

And joy fills the hearts of all who believe.

Amen. **Amen.**

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