

Acts 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Analysis

Paul's emphatic rejection of worship ('We also are men of like passions with you') establishes the unbridgeable distinction between human servants and divine Lord. The call to 'turn from these vanities unto the living God' presents the gospel as radical monotheism. The creational theology ('which made heaven, and earth, and the sea') provides natural revelation foundation for evangelism.

Historical Context

At Lystra (AD 49), locals identified Paul and Barnabas as Zeus and Hermes after healing the lame man. The missionaries' torn clothes and urgent protest prevented idolatrous sacrifice, though barely (Acts 14:18). This incident highlights the challenge of contextualizing the gospel in pagan polytheistic cultures.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How should Christian leaders handle misplaced honor or celebrity status today?
2. What role does creation theology play in evangelizing those without biblical background?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγοντες ἄνδρες τί ταῦτα ἐποίησεν καὶ ἡμεῖς

And saying Sirs why these do ye And We
G2532 G3004 G435 G5101 G5023 G4160 G2532 G2249

ὁμοιοπαθεῖς ἐσμεν ὑμῖν ἄνθρωποι εὐαγγελιζόμενοι

of like passions are with you men and preach
G3663 G2070 G5213 G444 G2097

ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ τούτων τῶν ματαίων ἐπιστρέφειν ἐπὶ τὸν
unto you from these things G3588 vanities that ye should turn unto G3588
G5209 G575 G5130 G3152 G1994 G1909

θεὸν τὸν ζῶντα ὃς ἐποίησεν τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν
God the living which do ye heaven And G3588
G2316 G3588 G2198 G3739 G4160 G3772 G2532 G3588

γῆν καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐν
earth And G3588 the sea And all things G3588 that are therein
G1093 G2532 G2281 G2532 G3956 G1722

αὐτοῖς.

G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:26 (Parallel theme): But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

1 Corinthians 8:4 (References God): As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

James 5:17 (Parallel theme): Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

1 Samuel 12:21 (Parallel theme): And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

Revelation 14:7 (Creation): Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Jeremiah 14:22 (Creation): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

Genesis 1:1 (Creation): In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Jonah 2:8 (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

Deuteronomy 32:21 (References God): They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Acts 4:24 (Creation): And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: