

## **Accusations Against Truth Teachers (Part 2)**

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: John 15:18-21

Those who are opposed to the truth will naturally be opposed to those who speak the truth. Jesus came “to testify to the truth” (John 18:37) and was crucified for it. He warned that we will receive the same kind of treatment. We also see this throughout the book of Acts. We are going to look at the accusations made against truth teachers in Acts. This will hopefully help us prepare for potential accusations that will be made against us today.

### **“These Men...Have Upset the World” (Acts 17:6)**

- When the accusation was made – Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica to preach (Acts 17:1-3); they converted “some” Jews and “a large number” of the Gentiles (Acts 17:4)
- Why the accusation – the Jews became “jealous” (Acts 17:5); they were losing numbers and influence; they claimed they had “upset the world” or “turned the world upside down” (KJV) and were contrary to Caesar
- Answering the accusation – received a “pledge” from Jason (Acts 17:9) and the brethren sent Paul and Silas away (Acts 17:10); sometimes this is all you can do (cf. Matthew 10:14)
- Give no credibility to the accusation – we are not trying to “upset the world,” we are trying to set things right and restore what was lost by sin (Luke 24:47; Ephesians 2:16-17); there will be times when we need to shake the dust off our feet and move on (Acts 13:50-51)

### **They Contradict “Undeniable Facts” (Acts 19:36)**

- When the accusation was made – in Ephesus, Demetrius stirred up the tradesmen (Acts 19:23-27); this led to the entire city forming a mob and crying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians” (Acts 19:34)
- Why the accusation – the town clerk said this in an attempt to calm the crowd (Acts 19:35); he dismissed the gospel as being contrary to “undeniable facts”
- Answering the accusation – Paul was persuaded not to attempt to answer the mob (Acts 19:30-31); afterward he immediately left (Acts 20:1); when people reach this point, there is little we can do
- Give no credibility to the accusation – our message harmonizes with facts (cf. Hebrews 11:1); however, do not blindly accept “undeniable facts” or the “official narrative”; instead, be skeptical (Matthew 10:16)

## **He “Preaches to All Men Everywhere Against Our People and the Law” (Acts 21:28)**

- When the accusation was made – Paul was in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17); some Jews from Asia saw him in the temple (Acts 21:28); they saw a Gentile with him earlier and assumed he brought him into the temple
- Why the accusation – this was done to stir up the Jews in Jerusalem against Paul; they were provoked and dragged Paul out of the temple and intended to kill him (Acts 21:30-31)
- Answering the accusation – he established common ground (Acts 22:1-5), then built upon it (Acts 22:6-16); when he said he was sent to the Gentiles, they stopped listening (Acts 22:21-22)
- Give no credibility to the accusation – establish common ground in any religious discussion; then attempt to lead them the rest of the way to the truth (cf. Acts 18:24-26)

### **Conclusion**

- In these examples, false accusations were made because people wanted to maintain the status quo – the conditions, “facts,” and traditions they were used to
- The truth (God’s truth) required a change – they did not want to do that
- Despite any accusations that will be made, we need to keep teaching the truth, following the truth, and encouraging others to believe and obey the truth today