

Week 07
039/326

Transforming Daily
“... from the Scriptures ...”
Acts 17:2

What an interesting statement in light of the fact that it is found in the midst of the progressing development of the New Testament. Paul wasn't referring to the New Testament here; he was referring to the Old Testament. That was all that existed at the time. So it was Paul's custom to enter into the nearest synagogue and teach from the Scriptures. In this case, he taught for several days. But what did he teach?

The text says that he taught from the Scriptures, the Old Testament, that Jesus was the Christ. From the Old Testament, Paul preached the gospel? Exactly. As a result, many came to faith and followed after Christ. Through the preaching and teaching of the Old Testament? Exactly. This Paul did from place to place in the synagogues. That's how churches were planted and the gospel spread.

Fast forward to the 21st century where the disciples of Christ have both the New and the Old Testaments, and yet there is controversy over what is relevant and what is not. Paul taught the early church from documents (the OT) that were as old then as the documents of the New Testament are now, and there was no argument from Paul about their relevance. There were false teachings then in opposition to the truth of God's Word that in comparison to the Scriptures might have made them look irrelevant, but it only appeared so. That would be the basis for those who would claim God's Word being irrelevant today, false teachers teaching false doctrine (read Galatians).

I often tell listeners to be careful not to use their personal experience as the grid-work through which they process the Scriptures, but instead, use the Scriptures as the grid-work by which their life is to be transformed. The explanation is simple. If one's personal experience is the grid-work through which Scripture is to be processed, with respect to the multiple and varying experiences of each individual, then God's Word would be subject to change. However, if the Word of God is the grid-work through which each individual's life is to be subjected, then one's life would be transformed to the image of Christ.

What is your view of the relevance of God's Word? How does God's Word affect you personally? Do you hold the Bible above all other books as the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God? When you share your faith and teach others about God, is it from the Scriptures?