

Date: 31 October 2021

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: Reformation Combined Service - Upside Down or Right-side Up?

Text: Acts 17:1-9

1. 31 October 1517 is a significant day because that was the day Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses on the door of Wittenberg. Prior to this, the Roman church was living in a spiritually dark period. The Bible was hidden and the only translation available was corrupted. Wrong practices like penance, selling of indulgence and purgatory were taught by the Roman church.
2. Since the 16th century, the spirit of the Reformers still continues on and is seen in men of truth who actively proclaim God's truth. When Paul arrived in Thessalonica, he went to the synagogue of the Jews and proclaimed the Scriptures to the people. He did not promote his own thoughts, but he explained from Scriptures alone. He declared that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Those who believed followed in the footsteps of God's truth, as Paul and Silas taught them.
3. The Jewish leaders persecuted these true believers by physical assault and false accusations. One of the believers who was persecuted was Jason. He and other believers were deemed troublemakers who turned the world upside down. But the real troublemakers were actually the Jews who resisted God's Word. The believers were actually turning the world right-side up by the preaching of the Truth.
4. The spirit of the Reformation is still needed today because there are many false Christian movements and corrupt Bible translations out there. Therefore, we need to stand firm to God's truth and be used by God to turn the world right-side up.