

## When They Opposed Themselves

### I. Introduction:

- A. Sometimes people just don't want to "hear it" (**Jeremiah 17:19-23**).
  - 1. They refuse to listen (**Zechariah 7:8-12**).
  - 2. They reject those that deliver God's word (**Jeremiah 35:15**).
- B. Often people convince themselves that they are rejecting the messenger, not the message (**Acts 7:35**).
  - 1. The Jews thought they were rejecting Jesus. They failed to see they were rejecting the Father (**John 12:36-44**; cf. **John 5:36-38**; **5:43-47** and **John 8:45-47**).
  - 2. Think about those carrying the message of Christ (**Luke 10:16** and **John 13:20**).
  - 3. Why be against the messenger (**Galatians 4:16**) when the messenger is not the origin of the message (**Acts 15:35**)?

### II. Body: **Acts 18:1-6**

- A. Consider the language of "they opposed themselves" (vs. 6).
  - 1. In other places this Greek term (Strong's # 498) is translated "resisteth" (**Romans 13:2**, **James 4:6**, and **I Peter 5:5**) and "resist" (**James 5:6**).
  - 2. Rather than resistance, we all need to submit to the will of God regardless of who is teaching it to us (**James 4:7** and **I John 2:17**).
  - 3. Focus on the teaching if the pattern is from God (**Romans 6:17**).
  - 4. Think about who you are fighting against if you oppose the truth from above (**Acts 5:17-18**; **5:27-28**; **5:33-39**).
- B. Their blood was upon their own heads (**Ezekiel 33:1-9**).
  - 1. A faithful teacher of God's word is going to declare the whole counsel of God (**Acts 20:20**; **20:26-27**).
  - 2. The question is, will you listen to the truth when presented and take obedient action (**Matthew 7:21-27**)?
- C. There are consequences coming to those who chose not to believe the truth they are shown (**II Thessalonians 2:12** and **Jude 1:5**).
  - 1. What causes God to be "wroth" [full of wrath] (**Psalms 78:21-22**)?
  - 2. Think about how what we read of old plays into those in Christ even to this day (**Hebrews 3:7-19**; cf. **Numbers 13:1-14:38**).
  - 3. Please, weigh the severe consequences of rejecting the word of the Lord (**Hebrews 12:25-29**).

III. Conclusion: When you oppose God, you are hurting yourself (**Proverbs 15:32** and **Luke 7:29-30**).