



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, October 06 2016.

Topic: Acts 17

Introduction: The journey of Paul and Silas continued. This time the journey took them to Thessalonica where they again gathered in the Jewish Synagogue to speak with the Jews and the Gentiles. As they exhorted the people, certain troublemakers came and caused problems for them. Unfortunately one Jason who I believe was perhaps housing them at some point was brought before the authorities but at this time the believers helped Paul and Silas and Timothy out of the city at night. From here they went to Berea where the gospel was well received but again these troublemaking Jews went after them. This time Paul was let out by the sea leaving Timothy and Silas behind. Eventually they reunited with Paul at Athens. However when Paul was awaiting them at Athens, he encountered the Greek philosophers who were worshipping an Unknown God. The situation gave him an opportunity to minister the gospel to a large set of people. Thereafter a few people believed and accepted the Gospel.

Acts 17 New King James Version (NKJV)

Preaching Christ at Thessalonica

17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

1. Why will Apostle Paul often seek out the gathering of the Jews: Acts 9:20; 13:5,14; 14:1; 16:13; 19:8 (He needed a point of contact)
2. Have you developed a certain custom? Luke 4:16
3. What did he do in the Synagogue?
4. Compare Paul’s business in the synagogue with your mission in the church. So what is your business in the church Luke 2:49, John 15:16, Matthew 29:18

4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

5. Was Apostle Paul able to win everyone? I Cor 9:20, Matthew 10:11-15. Should it therefore worry you when you are not able to win everyone to Christ?

Assault on Jason's House

⁵But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious,^[a] took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.⁷ Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus." ⁸And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.⁹ So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

6. Why were some of the Jews jealous?
7. What step did they take to stop Paul and Silas? Matthew 10:17-18, Rom 10:15-16.
8. Who were the people that were sought by the Jews to fight against Paul and Silas. Are these type of men still hard to find today? Matthew 26:59-60, Psalm 94:20-21, Acts 6:11
9. Was the ministry of Paul and Silas successful? I Cor 9:22, I Cor 10:33

Ministering at Berea

¹⁰Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.

10. Compare and Contrast the Berea believers and some believers of our days. Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12, Jer 23:29, II Tim 3:16, I John 4:1.

11. What was the result of the Berea believers checking on the authenticity of the word? Acts 17:12

¹⁴Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

12. Note the response of the believers when the troublemakers came. Acts 17:14, Ecc 3:1, Matt 10:23, John 6:15, John 8:59

The Philosophers at Athens

¹⁶Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. ¹⁷Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile*worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Then [Ⓜ]certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?”

Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? ²⁰For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing

13. Are you provoked when you see a wrong thing taking place (socially or spiritually)?
Matthew 6:34, 9:36, Jer 20:9, Acts 4:20

Addressing the Areopagus

²²Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.²⁶ And He has made from one blood^[e] every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ ²⁹Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. ³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

³²And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter*.” ³³So Paul departed from among them. ³⁴However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

14. Did Paul’s address yield any result? II Tim 1:8, I Peter 3:15, Col 4:6, II Tim 2:25-26

What shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. It did not matter what Paul and his team suffered, they pressed on for the price of the high calling of Christ. How much have you suffered for Christ that you have refused to yield yourself for the gospel. Finally are you like the Berea Christians or the ones in Thessalonica? The choice remains yours.