

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

III THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH Acts 13-28

LESSON 16 ~ The Second Missionary Journey Continues ~ Acts 17

KEY VERSE

'This Jesus whom I [Paul] preach to you is the Christ.' (Acts 17:3)

PONDER¹

READ Acts Chapter 17.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

CHRIST PREACHED AT THESSALONICA

READ Acts 17:1-4.

1. What did the missionaries find in Thessalonica² (v. 1)? _____

3 4

2. What was he seeking to reason about from the Scriptures (vv. 2, 3)? _____

5

LOOK DEEPER

What did the Old Testament Scriptures predict about the sufferings of Christ?

Isaiah 50:6 _____

Isaiah 53:3-7 _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² Thessalonica: city in Macedonia; prominent Roman colony; seaport where three rivers flowed into the sea.

³ Amphipolis: "nine ways"; strategically and commercially important; on the Via Egnatia, the Roman Road; a prominent thoroughfare.

⁴ Apollonia: a town on the Egnatian/Roman Road.

⁵ reason: explaining and demonstrating; to open up completely; explaining and proving.

3. Who was persuaded and joined Paul and Silas (Acts 17:4)? _____

PERSONAL

How were you persuaded to receive Jesus as the Christ? Explain. _____

ASSAULT ON JASON'S HOUSE

READ Acts 17:5-9.

1. What did the Jews who were not persuaded to receive Christ do (v. 5)? _____

2. Why did they drag Jason⁶ and some brethren to the rulers of the city (vv. 6, 7)? _____

3. What were the Jews crying out and accusing them of (v. 6b)? _____

4. Why did the crowd and rulers of the city become troubled (v. 8)? _____

5. What happened to Jason and the brethren (v. 9)? _____⁷

MINISTERING IN BEREIA

READ Acts 17:10-15.

1. When did the brethren send Paul and Silas away safely to Berea⁸ (v. 10)? _____

⁶ Jason: early Christian from Thessalonica; kinsman or fellow countryman.

⁷ security: to post a bond; assurance that there would be no repetition of the trouble.

⁸ Berea: a town in Macedonia by the coast where a church grew due to their searching of the Scriptures.

What was the first thing Paul and Silas did? _____

2. Why were the Bereans more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica (v. 11)? _____

3. Because they received the Word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures, who believed (v. 12)?

4. When the Jews from Thessalonica heard about the outcome in Berea, how did they react (vv. 13, 14)?

What did the brethren do with Paul? _____

5. Where did Paul go (v. 15)? _____ ⁹

Who did Paul command to come to him? _____

PHILOSOPHERS¹⁰ AT ATHENS

READ Acts 17:16-21.

1. Why was Paul's spirit provoked within him (v. 16)? _____

2. Who did he reason daily with in the synagogue and marketplace (v. 17)? _____

3. What philosophers did he encounter (v. 18)? _____ ^{11 12}

⁹ Athens: capital of ancient Greek city of Attica; modern capital of Greece; center of Greek art, architecture, literature and politics.

¹⁰ PHILOSOPHERS: Greek *fond of wise things*; the study of many convictions which leads to a world view of life.

¹¹ Epicurean philosophers: believed happiness was found through physical and mental pleasure.

¹² Stoic philosophers: the doctrine believed one should be free of passion, unmoved by joy or grief; submissive to natural law, calmly accepting all things as a result of divine will; people are part of a universe dominated by reason.

What did some say about Paul? Why? _____

4. Where did they take Paul (v. 19a)? _____ ¹³

5. How did they interrogate Paul (vv. 19b, 20)? _____

6. How did all the Athenians and foreigners who were there spend their time (v. 21)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures say concerning idols?

Exodus 20:4, 5 _____

Deuteronomy 7:25 _____

Psalms 81:9 _____

Isaiah 42:8 _____

I John 5:21 _____

PAUL'S ADDRESS AT AREOPAGUS

READ Acts 17:22-34.

NOTICE Paul's wisdom in addressing the men of Athens.

1. How did he use their idols to teach them about God (vv. 22, 23a)? _____

¹³ Areopagus - Greek *ares*: the name for Mars, the god of war; where the supreme council of Athens met. Mars' Hill located at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens where the Parthenon, a huge idolatrous temple, stands.

2. What absolute truths did Paul reveal about God in his message to the Athenian philosophers and foreigners?

v. 24 _____

v. 25 _____

vv. 26, 27 _____

v. 28 _____

v. 29 _____

v. 30 _____

3. How did Paul reveal Jesus, the Son of God (v. 31)? _____

4. How did they respond to Paul's words about the resurrection of the dead (v. 32)? _____

5. Though no church took root in Athens, when Paul departed some believed and joined him, who were they (vv. 33, 34)?

14 15

¹⁴ Dionysius the Areopagite: a member of the supreme court of Athens who became a Christian.

¹⁵ Damaris: a courageous believer; she was a teammate; she helped spread the Good News of Jesus Christ; probably a woman of distinction.

PERSONAL

What impacted you most strongly from Paul's message on Mars' Hill concerning his revelation of their unknown God?

What idols¹⁶ do you need to relinquish to God? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What is the meaning of the resurrection?

John 11:21-27 _____

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

¹⁶ idol: something or someone you love more than God; something you idolize.

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