

## Paul in Silas in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens

### Acts 17

- Roughly 49 AD
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey
- Ch. 16: Philippi > Lydia > Jailor
- Ch. 17: the Journey continues

#### **1. In Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-9**

- 1 – in Thess. there is a synagogue
- 2 – as his custom – Paul was frequently doing
- 3 – illustrating the need for Christ to die
- 4 – many Jews, some devout Greeks, chief women obeyed [beginning of congregation]
- 5 – certain Jews believed not, angry, upset
- 6 – few people “turned world upside down”
- 7 – accused of preaching another king
- 8 – troubled many people
- 9 – after they took Jason, they let them go
- *For further study: see 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians*

#### **2. In Berea – Acts 17:10-15**

- 10 – immediately sent to Berea – synagogue
- 11 – Bereans more noble. Why? Daily study!
- 12 – many believed, not a few
- 13 – angry Thess. Jews followed, stirred up
- 14 – immediately send P&S to the sea
- 15 – heading towards Athens

#### **3. In Athens – Acts 17:16-21**

- 16 – Paul waits for Silas & Timothy, the Spirit shows him the idolatry of Athens
- 17 – daily disputed with those Jews
- 18 – Paul accused of being a babler for preaching the resurrection

- 19 – Areopagus / Mars Hill / highest court
- 20-21 – want to hear Paul; want nothing new

#### **4. Mars Hill – Acts 17:22-34**

- 22 – people too superstitious (bad luck to be)
- 23 – noticed devotions (gods) to all sorts –THE UNKNOWN GOD will be declared [thesis]
- 24 – God made all things
- 25 – not worshipped with men’s hands [idols]
- 26 – made all of one blood
- 27 – seek after the Lord, He is not far away
- 28 – key – we live, have our being – we are His offspring
- 29 – since we are His offspring, we should not seek to worship the Godhead [Father, Son, Spirit] with gold, silver, or a created thing
- 30 – previously God winked at – **NOW COMMANDS ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT – NO OTHER OPTION!**
- 31 – there is coming the Great Judgment Day (almost the invitation)
- 32 – result: some mocked, others wanted to hear more later
- 33 – Paul leaves
- 34 – some followed after Paul and believed

#### **Lessons:**

1. Although you/we may be small in number we can “turn the world upside down.”
2. We must be like the Bereans and daily search the Scriptures to see what is true.
3. We must be willing to defend the truth, even if it is with ‘important’ people. 1 Peter 3:15
4. Regardless of the past, we must repent of our sins and don’t go back into that sin.
5. We must live each day in ready preparation for the Judgment Day. Are you?

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