

168. Paul Visits Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens (Acts 17:1-34)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You taught people and used examples they can understand. Your apostles also did that. Help us also to tell people about You in a way they can understand. Help us understand their lives and their needs, then we can better show them how You are their Savior. We pray in Your name, Amen.

Acts 17:1-4.

- In a very short time, Paul, Silas, and Timothy started a church in Thessalonica. How long were they in Thessalonica?

Acts 17:5-9.

- Why were the Jews always so jealous?
- The Jews were angry at Paul and Silas because they preached about Jesus. But why were they angry at Jason? How was he “guilty?”

Acts 17:10-15.

- How were the Jews in Berea different from the Jews in Thessalonica? When Paul and Silas taught them, what did they do?
- When you see someone teaching something about God, how can you know if it is true or not?
- Why did the believers send Paul away? Why did Silas and Timothy stay in Berea?

Acts 17:16-21.

(Greek philosophers sat around all day and discussed or argued different ideas about the world. The Epicureans' main goal was happiness and learning from experience. The Stoics thought everything was chance and out of our control. They tried not to get too happy or too upset about anything.)

- Who did Paul talk to in Athens?

- Why did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers want to know about Paul's teachings?

Acts 17:22-23.

- What kind of altar did Paul find in Athens?

- Why did they have that altar there?

- Paul said he saw that the people were "very religious." Is that a good thing?

Acts 17:24-28.

- How much did the people in Athens already know about God?

- There are two ways we are God's children. What are they?
 - 1.
 - 2.

- Do all the people in group #1 go to heaven? How about group #2?

Acts 17:29-31.

- What does God want people everywhere to do? What about people in China, or India, or Russia? What about people in the U.S.?
- God chose someone who will judge all people in the world. Who will judge? How did God show He chose that person?

Acts 17:32-34.

- What did the men in the Areopagus think about the resurrection?
- When we tell other people about Jesus, should we expect most of them to believe? What can we expect?