



Acts: Thessalonica

Aug 30

INTRODUCTION: Paul & Co left Philippi (supported by them, Phil 4:16) and headed west along the *Egnatian Way* to a major N/S intersection and harbour city, Thessalonica. Being a strategic city, Paul was eager to preach the Gospel there. Not long after, while at Corinth, Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians to further disciple them in the hope of the Lord.

KEY POINT: reasoning & persuading, belief, jealousy, legacy

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 16:16–24)

- Who was the slave girl?
- What does the Bible say about divination and evil spirits?
- Why did Paul eventually exorcize the evil spirit?
- Why were Paul and Silas arrested? Modern parallels?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 16:25–40)

- Why did Paul & Silas have joy amidst hardship? Today?
- What led to the jailors question (vv. 29–31). What was the short and long reply? How did he show repentance?
- For what benefit may have Paul used his Roman rights?
- What does the section on Philippi teach us about the universal need/appeal and unifying effects of the Gospel?

READ: Acts 17:1–9

QUESTIONS:

Witness

1. *Vv. 1–2a*– Paul repeats his pattern b/c the city had a synagogue. He was here several weeks, 3 of which were in the synagogue (1 Thes 2:9).
2. Jews, who already believed in Scripture and a coming Messiah and needed only to believe the Messiah was prophesied to die and rise and that Jesus fulfilled this (Jesus of history = Jesus of Bible).



3. Paul reasoned, explained and proved (and later were persuaded). Why doesn't Christianity ask you to leave your brain at the door?
 4. How did Paul desire people understand truth deeply and not simply accept it (indoctrination)? How does this principle of understanding enrich our entire Christian life?
 5. **V.2**–While Paul used reason, what was his ultimate authority? Why must this ground our walk and witness?
 6. Paul spoke to those who already believed the Bible. How do we use the Bible in a culture that no longer believes it?
 7. V. 2– Why was it necessary that Jesus suffer, die and rise to be the Messiah?
 8. *V. 3b*–As he reasoned from Scripture he also proclaimed (or heralded): he announced Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, present reign and future return; the offer of salvation/Spirit and warning of judgement. Do we know this well enough and believe it deeply enough to do this?
 9. Read 1 Thes 1:5– how else did Paul defend the faith (apologetics) and proclaim the Gospel (evangelism)?
- Reception (Positive and Negative)
10. *V. 5*– there was a wide ranging reception: some unbelieving Jews, god-fearing Greeks and women of high standing. (Also Paul's fellow worker and prisoner, Aristarchus (Acts 20:4, 27:2). Why was it significant that a variety of people responded, some, and also the women?
 11. *V. 5*– “But the [unbelieving] Jews...” Like before (and those in 16:19–21), why were they upset? Acting contrary to the Law they professed to believe, what did they do?
 12. *V.5*– Jason was hosting the missionaries.
 13. **V.7**– How were they charged with treason? How was this the same as what Jesus was charged with? How was this charge both true and false? What about today?
 14. 1 Thes 1: 6, 2:9, 5:12 all note Paul preached, and the Church was formed, amidst much conflict. Read 1 Thes 1:7–9. While external conflict can be a hindrance, how can it aid the preacher and the believer?

15. *V. 6- "Turned the world upside down." Had they really? (They certainly up ended economics and religious status). Yet, how was this true of the future? Might God do this again?*
16. *The security may have been financial or a legal pledge.*
17. *The cutting short of this ministry may be what Paul refers to as "Satan's hindrance" (1 Thes 2:18). Still, given 1 and 2 Thes, God's will prevailed. In light of 1 Thes 1:6-9 how is it encouraging that despite opposition God advances His Kingdom?*

NEXT: Sept 6- Creation Event, no LGs