

**Acts 16-17 *The Second Missionary Journey. The Macedonian Call...
Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens***

NOTES

Acts 16:1-10 The Macedonian Call – *Come over and help us!*

1. **Timothy joined Paul's company, and he was circumcised for the sake of the Gospel. (16:1-3)**
 - ✓ Timothy's mother and grandmother were Jews that believed and taught him the Scriptures.
 - ✓ Timothy was led to Christ by Paul himself and had a good testimony among the brethren.
 - ✓ Timothy's father was a Greek which meant that he was not circumcised as a child.
2. **Copies of the letters were delivered, and the churches were established in the faith. (16:4-5)**
 - ✓ As they went, they gave them authorized copies of the Gentile letters and decrees to keep.
 - ✓ The churches were established in the faith and increased in number daily.
3. **Paul received the call to preach the Gospel in Macedonia – to go west. (16:6-10)**
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit had forbidden them to go east and suffered them not to go north.
 - ✓ A vision appeared to Paul with a man who prayed him, saying, "Come over... and help us."
 - ✓ They went immediately gathering that the Lord had called them to preach the Gospel.
 - ✓ They went to warn every man that Jesus is coming to judge the world and to repent and believe!

Acts 16:11-40 The Second Missionary Journey: Philippi – *Lydia's house and the jailor!*

1. **Paul and others preached the gospel to Lydia and others at a prayer meeting. (16:11-15)**
 - ✓ After certain days, they went to where women were known to be praying on the Sabbath.
 - ✓ Lydia, who was most likely a proselyte to the Jewish religion, received God's words and believed.
 - ✓ Lydia was then baptized along with her entire household and invited them into her house.
2. **Paul commanded an evil spirit to depart from a damsel which resulted in prison. (16:16-25)**
 - ✓ The certain damsel was using "God-talk" which grieved Paul as he was able to rebuke it.
 - ✓ The masters of the damsel who profited from her false divinations provoked legal action and prison.
 - ✓ They prayed and sang praises to God at midnight and the prisoners heard them.
3. **After a great earthquake and prison miracle, the Philippian jailor got saved. (16:26-40)**
 - ✓ The prison foundation was shaken and immediately all doors were open, and bands loosed.
 - ✓ The jailor awoke afraid and would have killed himself, but Paul cried out for him not to do it.
 - ✓ The jailor called for a light, sprang in and fell down saying, "What must I do to be saved?"
 - ✓ They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
 - ✓ The jailor, who had thrust them, now washed their stripes and then they were all baptized.
 - ✓ The jailor brought them into his house for a time of food and fellowship with one another.
 - ✓ The magistrates sent word that they could go home, but Paul delayed to help to protect the church.

Acts 17:1-9 The Second Missionary Journey: Thessalonica – *the King is coming back!*

1. **Paul's team arrived in Thessalonica and immediately went into the Jewish synagogue. (17:1-4)**
 - ✓ Paul reasoned with them in the synagogue three sabbath days out of the Scriptures.
 - ✓ Paul was preaching that Christ must needs have suffered and risen and that Jesus is the Christ.
 - ✓ Some Jews and a great multitude of devout Greeks and "not a few" chief women believed.
2. **Unbelieving Jews moved with envy set all the city on an uproar and gathered a company. (17:5-9)**
 - ✓ They took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort and gathered a company to oppose.
 - ✓ They set all the city on an uproar and assaulted the house of Jason.

- ✓ They said, “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”
- ✓ They said that Paul was saying that there was another king, one Jesus!

3. More details are learned of this 2–4-week adventure in the first letter to the Thessalonians.

- ✓ Refer to notes and verse by verse study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Acts 17:10-15 The Second Missionary Journey: Berea – *the power of the Scriptures!*

1. Paul and Silas arrived in Berea and immediately went into the Jewish synagogue. (17:10-11)

- ✓ The Berean Jews were more noble and received the word with all readiness of mind.
- ✓ They searched the Scriptures daily to prove what Paul was saying was true.
- ✓ Because of their response to the words of God, many of the Jews believed.
- ✓ The godly response of the Jews and the power of the Gospel led many Gentiles to be saved.

2. Thessalonian unbelieving Jews came to stir up Berea against God’s work. (17:12-15)

- ✓ The Jews of Thessalonica were not content to disrupt God’s work in their city only.
- ✓ It was the preaching of the word of God that was of most concern to these unbelievers.
- ✓ They stirred up the people and evil affected their minds toward God and His truth.
- ✓ Berean believers sent away Paul to Athens who went alone as it were by the sea.
- ✓ Silas and Timothy abode there still to help establish the church in Berea.

Acts 17:16-34 The Second Missionary Journey: Athens – *beware of men’s wisdom!*

1. Paul’s spirit was stirred by the idolatry of people of Athens... so he opened his mouth. (17:16-17)

- ✓ His spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.
- ✓ Therefore, he disputed in the synagogue with the Jews and devout persons.
- ✓ Therefore, he spoke in the market daily with them that met with him.

2. Paul preached Christ crucified and the resurrection to the people of Athens. (17:18-21)

- ✓ Certain philosophers of the Epicureans and the Stoicks encountered Paul preaching.
- ✓ They wanted to know more about this new doctrine; the truth was to them like strange things.
- ✓ They wanted their ears tickled and wanted only to tell, or to hear some new thing.

3. Paul stood and preached of God as Creator and Lord of heaven and earth. (17:22-25)

- ✓ He beheld their superstitions and devotions to idols and “to the unknown God.”
- ✓ God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth.
- ✓ God has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of man’s habitation.
- ✓ For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.
- ✓ We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, silver, stone, graven art, man’s devices.

4. Paul preached repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ and Judgment. (17:26-34)

- ✓ The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.
- ✓ Because He hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness.
- ✓ By that man whom He hath ordained; where of He hath given assurance unto all men.
- ✓ In that He hath raised Him from the dead.
- ✓ When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some (1) mocked, (2) postponed, (3) believed.

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "You have one business on earth – to save souls."

– John Wesley (1703-1791; Philadelphia church period preacher and evangelist)

"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that!"

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; Philadelphia church period preacher called the "Prince of Preachers")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 16:1-10 The Macedonian Call – Come over and help us!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. **Timothy joined** Paul's company, and he was **circumcised** for **the sake of the GOSPEL**. 16:1-3

- ✓ Timothy's **mother** and **grandmother** were **Jews that believed** and taught him the **Scriptures**...
2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15-17
- ✓ Timothy was **led to Christ** by Paul himself and had a **good testimony** among the brethren...
Acts 14:6, 21; 1 Timothy 1:2; 3:7; 5:10, 25; 2 Timothy 1:2; 3:11
- ✓ Timothy's **father was a Greek** which meant that he was **not circumcised** as a child...
Genesis 17:10; Leviticus 12:3; 1 Corinthians 7:19; 9:20-23; Galatians 2:3, 8; 5:1-3, 6

NOTE After an intense stand for the gospel following false teaching and confusion surrounding the Law in chapter 15, we rejoice with the church at Antioch over the endorsement from the apostles and elders in the church at Jerusalem that the Gentiles (and all the world now) are **saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ALONE** and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Paul would not compromise on that gospel that saves!! Now, we find that he asked Timothy to be circumcised because of the Jews in the area where they were taking the gospel. Is Paul a hypocrite? Is he confused or crazy? NO!! Paul knows exactly what he is doing. He is living out what he wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 where he said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you." He was passionate that circumcision could not save a person. He did, however, understand that it was a stumblingblock for some Jews to hear the gospel that would save their souls from eternity in hell. Timothy was not required to get circumcised for salvation. He willingly submitted to do it because he cared more for souls and God's mission than he did his pride and worldly image. What is it that we should circumcise from our life to get serious about the mission of saving souls for the glory of our great God and Saviour?!

2. **COPIES** of the **letters** were **delivered**, and **the churches** were **established in the faith**. 16:4-5

- ✓ As they went, **they gave them authorized copies** of the **Gentile letters** and decrees to keep...
Acts 15:30-31; 21:25; Deuteronomy 17:18; Romans 16:22; 1 Corinthians 5:9; 2 Corinthians 7:8;
Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:14, 17; 2 Peter 3:1, 15-16

- ✓ The **churches** were **established in the faith** and **increased** in number daily...
Acts 15:41; Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 4:13-16; Colossians 2:6; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 13; Hebrews 13:9, 20, 21; 1 Peter 5:10; Acts 6:7; 9:31; 11:21; 12:24; 19:18-21

NOTE The word of God is the agent that brings forth eternal life and growth for born-again Christians. Here we find Paul and his company doing what they will do with all his epistles (letters) to the churches and pastors – giving copies to all the churches and believers. It was critical for the new churches to be established in the faith and for the believers not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Eph 4:13-14). Every believer must be **disciplined** to the end that they might be established and know what the Bible says and that they might submit to God and His will as the fear Him and obey Him in every area of life. It is also important to understand that often times we must **suffer** “a while” in this short life in order that we might be established and strengthened and settled (1 Peter 5:6-11) for the glory of God.

3. Paul received **the call** to **PREACH the Gospel** in Macedonia – to go west! 16:6-10

- ✓ The **Holy Spirit** had **forbidden** them to go east and **suffered them not** to go north...
Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2-4; 20:28; Romans 8:1, 4; Galatians 5:16, 25; Psalm 37:5; 118:8-9; Prov 3:5
- ✓ A **vision** appeared to Paul with a man who **prayed him**, saying, “**Come over...and help us**” ...
Acts 11:13-14; Romans 10:14-17; Matthew 7:13-23; Luke 13:3, 5; John 3:3, 14-21, 36
- ✓ They went **immediately** gathering that **the Lord had called them to preach the gospel**...
Acts 3:20; 5:42; 8:5, 35; 9:20; 10:36; 11:20; 13:38; 17:3, 18; Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 15:12; 2 Corinthians 4:5; 10:14; Ephesians 3:8; Philippians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9, 15
- ✓ They went **to warn every man** that **Jesus is coming to judge the world**, that **there is wrath to come**, and that **God has now commanded** all men everywhere **to repent or perish**...
Colossians 1:28; Jude 20-23; Jeremiah 6:10; Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:4-9; Matthew 3:7; Acts 20:27, 28, 31; 1 Cor 4:14; 1 Thess 5:12-14

NOTE Oh that God would stamp eternity on our eyes that we might see the lost world around us in a new light today!! It is important for us to see **the lost condition** of perishing sinners as **a cry for help!!** This man represented a people who had everything they needed in a worldly sense. He represented a people of learning, wealth and culture. He represented a people with unquestionable devotion and sincerity towards religion (Acts 17:22). He represented a people that had every advantage socially and economically and yet like the rich young ruler lacked one thing (Mk 10:21). They **had no knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ** and the reality that they were in danger of His coming judgment (2 Thess 1-10) to execute judgment upon all who are ungodly (Jude 14-15) and that based on their **present condemnation** for having broken God’s Law (the Ten Commandments; 1 Jo 3:4; Jas 2:10) were literally situated under the wrath and anger of Almighty God (Jn 3:36) hanging by a breath over the present danger of death (Heb 9:27) and the sure and swift path to God’s eternal prison called hell (Mt 10:28)! We are God’s watchmen to the world! We must blow the trumpet of the Law and the Gospel for as long as God gives us breath! The question we must ask ourselves is this – **have we no wish for others to be saved?** If no, then how can we be saved ourselves?!?! The greatest blessing God can ever bestow upon any people is to send them a faithful gospel preacher (Isa 52:7). You are that gospel preacher to all of those that God puts in your path every day – warn them, teach them, lead them to the cross of our precious Saviour who paid the price for their sins that they might be saved from the wrath to come.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "What must I do to be saved?"

– The Philippian Jailor (repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ alone by faith approx. 49 AD)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 16:11-40 The 2nd Missionary Journey: Philippi – Lydia's house and the Jailor!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Paul and others ***preached the gospel to Lydia*** and others at a **PRAYER** meeting. 16:11-15

- ✓ After certain days, ***they went*** to where women were ***known to be praying*** on the Sabbath...
Acts 13:14, 42; 17:2, 17; Mark 16:15; John 4:4; Acts 8:40
- ✓ Lydia, who was ***most likely a proselyte*** to the Jewish religion, ***received*** Paul's words ***as the words of God, believed the words, and got saved...***
John 6:44; Acts 8:27; 10:2; Acts 11:14, 21; Lk 24:45; 1 Thess 2:13; 1:5-6; Rom 10:8-17; Jn 1:12; Eph 1:13
- ✓ Lydia was ***then was baptized*** along with her ***entire household*** and invited them ***into her house*** for a time of ***fellowship...***
Acts 8:12, 38; 18:8; 1 Peter 3:21; Gal 6:10; Hebrews 13:2; Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15; Philemon 1:2

NOTE Paul and his company came to this chief city of Philippi and based on the fact that there is no reference in the Scriptures to a Jewish synagogue, we conclude there was none. And so, after a time of discussion with people of the city, they go to a place where women were known to pray on the Sabbath. These women were most likely Jews and proselytes to the Jewish religion who were praying to the God of heaven and earth. What a sweet conversion story we find as Lydia attends to Paul's words of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. His manner in every city was simple and straight forward – he preached Christ crucified and the risen Savior who is the Judge of quick and dead and He who became sin for us on the cross that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. The Bible says she was saved and baptized and was such a godly woman that she was able to influence the conversion of her entire household also!! Wow. We also see the fruit of her salvation as she immediately desires to serve these men and invite them into her house for food and fellowship. Mark it down – Lydia is our example – ***our house should be such a haven of rest for the saved and a rescue station for the lost.*** Her house was most likely the first church meeting place (Acts 16:40)!!

2. Paul ***commanded an evil spirit*** to depart from a damsel which ***resulted in PRISON.*** 16:16-25

- ✓ The certain damsel was using ***"God-talk"*** which ***grieved*** Paul as he was able to rebuke it...
Acts 8:9-11; Exodus 7:11,12; Deuteronomy 18:9-11; Isaiah 8:19; Gal 5:20; 2 Tim 3:8
- ✓ The masters of the damsel who ***made profit from her*** false religious divination ***provoked*** the magistrates and multitude to ***beat*** Paul and Silas and ***cast them into prison.***
Acts 19:24; 1 Timothy 6:10; 2 Peter 2:3; Revelation 18:11-13
- ✓ They ***prayed*** and ***sang praises to God*** at midnight and ***the prisoners heard them.***
Job 35:10; Ps 22:2; 42:8; 77:6; 119:55, 62; Ps 50:15; 77:2; 91:15; Jas 5:13; 2 Cor 1:3-7; 3:2; Mt 5:14-16

NOTE There is a lesson in this passage for us today that defies "human reasoning" and flies in the face of modern day "Christian" psycho-therapy and "counseling" (so-called). Paul and Silas were stripped of their clothes, beaten with many stripes, and cast into prison. In the prison, the Philippian jailor was rough with them and thrust them into the prison and made their feet fast in the stocks. At midnight of this very night, Paul and Silas began to pray and sing praises unto God! And, it was at that time that the other prisoners, who knew of their beating and stripes, heard something that the Holy Spirit no doubt was able to use in a way that Paul and Silas were not even expecting – songs of praise to the God of heaven!! ***Never forget that you are a living epistle (letter) – known and read of all men*** (2 Cor 3:2)! Your testimony during life's trials **matters!!**

3. After a **great earthquake** and prison miracle, the **Philippian jailor** got **SAVED**. 16:26-40

- ✓ The prison **foundation was shaken** and **immediately all doors** were **open** and **bands loosed**... Acts 5:19; 12:7, 10; Matthew 28:2; Psalm 102:20; Isaiah 42:7; 61:1; 2 Timothy 2:26
- ✓ The jailor **awoke afraid** and **would have killed himself**, but Paul cried for him not to do it... Acts 16:23-24; 12:19
- ✓ The jailor **called for a light**, sprang in and **fell down** saying, "**What must I do to be saved?**" ... John 1:9; Proverbs 6:23; 2 Chronicles 34:26-28; Psalm 52:17; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5
- ✓ They said, **BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED, AND THY HOUSE** – and then **spoke the Word** to them and he and **his entire house got saved**... Acts 8:37; 11:13-14; 13:38-39; 15:11; John 1:12; 3:15-16, 36; 6:40, 47; 7:38; 11:25, 26; 20:31; Rom 5:1, 2; 10:9, 10; Gal 3:22, 26; Eph 2:7-9; 1 Jn 5:10-13; Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20; 2 Pet 3:9; Luke 19:9
- ✓ The jailor, who had **thrust** them, **now washed their stripes** and then **they were all baptized**... Proverbs 16:7; Luke 10:33-34; Galatians 5:6, 13; Acts 16:15; 1 Cor 1:16
- ✓ The jailor **brought them into his house** for a time of **food and fellowship** with one another... Acts 2:46; 1 Thess 4:9, 10; Philemon 1:7; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:18; Isa 12:1-3; 61:10; Philippians 4:4
- ✓ The **magistrates sent word** that they could **go in peace**, but **Paul saw something bigger** – an opportunity to use their Roman citizenship in a way that would **protect the new church**... Acts 16:38; 22:29; Ephesians 5:15; Proverbs 16:21; 21:20; 1 Kings 3:5-12; 28

NOTE Oh what a Gospel Story! What an example of a true and genuine salvation we see in this humbled Gentile man – the Philippian jailor! Do you see yourself in this man? He was first proud and arrogant in his worldly job as the keeper of the prison in Philippi. He thrust those men into his prison and forcefully made them sure in their stocks. But, when his world was "rocked" and the earthquake came that shook the foundation of his employment, this "strong" man came fearfully and humbly to the feet of the Christian missionaries who sang praises to the God of heaven and earth asking what he must do to be saved from the God that could do such things and that would soon be his Judge!! Paul and Silas said – BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST – that is turn from your idolatrous ways and worldly belief system (repent) and by faith put all your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and to escape God's judgment and wrath to come. And that is exactly what this humble man did – and all that were in his house!! His life change as a result was so sudden and major!! He was immediately found washing the wounds that he had just roughly handled and scoffed at. And, he was immediately found serving those God-fearing Christian men who brought the glorious gospel to his city and to **his house**. When you consider your life, do you see such grace and mercy and service and fellowship?!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also...saying that there is another king, one Jesus."* – The angry mob at Thessalonica (Acts 17:6; approx. 54 AD)

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

– The Apostle Paul (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; approx. 54 AD)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 17:1-9 – The 2nd Missionary Journey: Thessalonica – the King is coming back!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Paul's team arrived in **Thessalonica** and **immediately** went into the **Jewish synagogue**. 17:1-4

- ✓ Paul **reasoned** with those in the synagogue on **three sabbath days** out of the **Scriptures**...
Luke 4:16; John 18:20; Acts 9:20; 13:5; 14:1; 17:10, 17; 18:4; 19:8; Acts 24:25; 28:23; Isa 1:18; Hebrews
- ✓ Paul was **opening and alleging** that **Christ must needs have suffered and risen again from the dead**, and that **Jesus is Christ**...
Acts 2:16-36; 3:22-26; 13:26-39; Luke 24:26, 27, 32, 44, 46; 1 Corinth 15:1-4; Acts 2:36; 9:22; 18:28; Galatians 3:1; Isaiah 53; Psalm 22
- ✓ **Some Jews** and a **great multitude of devout Greeks** and "**not a few**" **chief women believed**...
Acts 2:41-44; 4:23; 5:12-14; 14:1, 4; 28:24; Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 2 Corinth 6:17-18; Acts 13:50

NOTE What an amazing testimony to the power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost (1 Thess 1:5)! Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke came into this city after being shamefully treated in Philippi and immediately went to work in the synagogue of the Jews preaching Christ crucified. They spent three sabbath days in this city while laboring at night to supply the physical needs of his team and to avoid being a burden to the people. God had clearly gone before them and prepared the hearts of these people to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many influential people responded to the gospel (17:4) which caused the unbelieving Jews to be envious. The source of Paul's message was the Holy Bible! The content of Paul's message was the coming Judgment and wrath of Almighty God, the present condemnation of unbelievers, Christ crucified, the risen Savior, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation!! He preached Jesus as God, the Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords who was coming back! What is the content of your gospel message?

2. **Unbelieving Jews** moved with **envy** set **ALL** the city on **an uproar over the gospel**. 17:5-9

- ✓ They took unto them **certain lewd fellows of the baser sort**, and **gathered a company**...
Acts 7:9; 13:45; Proverbs 14:30; Matthew 27:18; 1 Corinth 3:3; Galatians 5:21, 26; James 4:5; Judges 9:4; Psalm 35:15; 69:12; Acts 19:24-34, 40
- ✓ They set **all the city** on an **uproar** and **assaulted the house** of Jason...
Acts 14:2, 19; 16:19, 20; 18:12, 13; 19:24-34, 40

- ✓ They said, "These that have **turned the world upside down** are come hither also" ...
Acts 21:28-31; 22:22, 23; 24:5; 28:22; 1 Kings 18:17-18; Amos 7:10; Luke 23:5
- ✓ They said that Paul was saying that there was **another king, one Jesus...**
Acts 16:21; Ezra 4:12-15; Luke 23:2; John 19:12; "Lord" is found 25 times in 1 Thessalonians (87 verses)

NOTE We have seen this pattern all through the book of Acts thus far. Do not be fooled – Satan is the motivating force behind all opposition to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the god of this world who has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor 4:4). Paul and his company had such an impact on the planet that word of these preachers of righteousness had spread to this city of Thessalonica (approx. 200,000 people in Paul's day) long before they arrived. Would to God that we would have such a testimony in Tuscarawas County and around the world for the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ!! He is THE King! He is THE Lord! These people got Paul's message loud and clear – Jesus Christ was the King of kings – and all must surrender to Him as Lord repenting and trusting Him alone for salvation and to escape the judgment and wrath of Almighty God.

3. More details are learned of this 2-4 week adventure in the first **LETTER** to the Thessalonians.

- ✓ The first letter is especially important as a **witness** to the **CONTENT** of the **earliest Gospel**.
 - This was the **first** NT church epistle written (likely during Acts 18)!
 - It was most likely written sometime between **48-54AD** shortly after Paul left them.
 - Paul said the gospel came not in word only, but in power, and the Holy Ghost.
 - Paul said that as a result of his preaching, the Thessalonians heard (1:9-10):
 1. **REPENTANCE** – they **turned to God from idols** to serve the living and true God
 2. **JESUS IS COMING BACK** – to wait for his Son **from heaven**
 3. **THE RESURRECTION** – whom he **raised from the dead**, even **Jesus**
 4. **JUDGMENT & HELL** – which **delivered us from the wrath to come**.
 - When we compare Scripture with Scripture, we find out that this is what Paul calls "my gospel" in Romans 2:16.
- ✓ The first letter had a number of key purposes:
 - To **strengthen** and **confirm** the new Christians in the word of the Lord.
 - To answer the **false accusations** about Paul and the missionary team.
 - To explain that dead Christians would participate in **the rapture** of the church.
 - To remind Christians of the first Antioch letter, our call to holiness, and **warn about fornication and immorality**.
 - To remind Christians to honor and follow **scriptural** leaders.
 - To remind Christians that **Jesus will come as a thief** in the night and warn them not to give up their jobs and wait for **the Second Coming**.
 - To be **read by all Christians** in Thessalonica and around the world until the rapture.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "Better for you to have one sleepless night on earth than millions in Hell."

– Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English Christian evangelist/author)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 17:10-15 – The 2nd Missionary Journey: Berea – the power of the Scriptures!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Paul and Silas arrived in **Berea** and **immediately** went into the **Jewish synagogue**. 17:10-11

- ✓ The Berean **Jews** were **more noble** and **received the word** with **all readiness of mind**...
2 Timothy 2:22-26; John 1:45-49; 1 Corinthians 1:26; Acts 2:41; 10:33; 11:1; Job 23:12; Proverbs 2:1-5; 8:10; Matthew 13:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:2
- ✓ They **searched the scriptures daily** to **prove** what Paul was saying was true...
Psalm 1:2, 3; 119:97, 100, 148; Isaiah 8:20; 34:16; Luke 16:29; 24:44; John 3:21; 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 John 4:1-6
- ✓ Because of **their response to the words of God**, **many** of the Jews **believed**...
Psalm 25:8, 9; John 1:12; 7:17; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:21
- ✓ The **godly response of the Jews** and the **power of the Gospel** led **many Gentiles** to be saved...
Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 3:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Genesis 19:14; Numbers 16:21, 26, 45; Jeremiah 51:6; 5:12-14; 2 Chronicles 30:10; 36:16; Proverbs 29:10; Isaiah 28:22; Luke 17:28-30; 24:11; Acts 17:32

NOTE In our Bible study called, "How to Study the Bible," we learned the "Attitude Factor #9" which says that you should always be ready to **CHANGE** whatever you have been taught or you have believed when it goes **CONTRARY** to the Bible. I have now come to call this factor the **REPENTANCE** factor. The Bereans had that kind of attitude and thinking towards the words of God from Paul and his missionary team, towards the preaching of the cross and Jesus Christ, and towards the holy scriptures. Because they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily to prove what Paul was saying from the Bible, many of them believed and were saved! **Do not miss that connection.** The holy Bible has the words of eternal life. Everything we need for life and godliness is found in the Bible (2 Pet 1:3). God has inspired and preserved every one of the words in this blessed Book perfect for us in our English language in the Authorized Version. God could have given us hundreds of books to learn of Him and to obey and follow. He chose to give us one (Jn 20:30-31; 21:25). Bible believers have been martyred and tortured over this blessed Book to give it to us. God only asks that we **open it** and **read it daily** so that He can speak to us and guide our thinking and actions for His glory. It is not always what we want to hear, but it is what we need to hear. It is a mirror of our Lord (who is the Word) to make us more like Him (2 Cor 3:18; Jas 1:19-27). The Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim 3:16-17)." When confronting the devil's tempting, Jesus said, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Lk 4:4)." Do you love and esteem God's words more than your necessary food (Job 23:12)? Do you eat them like Jeremiah (Jer 15:16) so that they are the joy and rejoicing of your heart? You sure ought to!

NOTE According to 2 Timothy 2:25, at the very heart of repentance is the acknowledgment of God's truth found in His holy Bible. It is to believe in your heart and confess to God with your mouth (Rom 10:9-13) that you were wrong about everything – about God, about you, about your thoughts, about your ways and motives, about your religious ideas and works, and about your goodness (or lack thereof). It is to agree with the Bible with a broken and contrite heart that even your righteousnesses (what you thought were the best things about you towards God and humanity and your better than average morality) were as filthy rags in His sight (Isa 64:6)! True repentance is the logical conclusion of having come to the end of yourself – to be humble and broken over your sins and crimes of having broken God's Law (Ten Commandments, 1 John 3:4) and having offended the holy God and your Maker and Creator who gave you life and breath and everything you have. It is to surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to say to God, "I am done with me. Save me, Lord. Take my life, my family, my relationships, my job, my money, and my future. It is yours – whatever the cost, whatever the sacrifice – I will serve you and fear you and obey you until you come for me or take my last breath." That is what the Bereans did. Have you truly repented and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? If not, what are you waiting for? What is so valuable in this life that you are willing to spend eternity in hell for it?

2. Thessalonian **unbelieving Jews** came to **STIR** up Berea **against God's work**. 17:12-15

- ✓ The Jews of Thessalonica were **not content** to disrupt God's work in Thessalonica only... Acts 17:5; Matthew 23:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16; Romans 2:5; Isaiah 30:13
- ✓ It was **the preaching of the word of God** that was of **most concern** to these unbelievers... Amos 7:1-17; Acts 13:41; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 23, 24; Galatians 6:12-14
- ✓ They **stirred up the people** and **evil affected their minds** toward God and His truth... Acts 6:12; 14:2; 21:27; 1 Kings 21:25; Proverbs 15:18; 28:25; 1 John 2:16
- ✓ Berean believers **sent away Paul** to Athens who went alone **as it were** by the sea... Acts 9:25, 30; 17:10; Matthew 10:23
- ✓ Silas and Timothy **abode their still** to help **establish the church** in Berea... 1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:5

NOTE Woe unto those that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!! According to 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, they shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. As we learned in our Church History study, over the last 6,000 years, Satan has always used religion as his method of operation in the world to keep the lost blinded to the truth and from repenting and trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation. As it was in the days of Amos, so it is still now. His ministers and priests do not like it when God's people are willing to **GO, STAND** and **SPEAK** to people and strangers in public!! Mark it down. False teachers and religious hypocrites do not like to be exposed by the preaching of the cross and the truth of sin, righteousness and judgment to come!! Paul was sent away "to go as it were to the sea" but he actually went by foot to Athens. Maybe it was a strategy so that the unbelieving Jews would think that he was on a boat and leaving for good so they would stop their persecution of God's preacher and work. Silas and Timothy were left at Berea to help establish God's new church there. What an opportunity for God to build His church and for disciples to mature enough in the Lord that they might win souls for Christ and teach them to fear and obey God and then go be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be fully committed to the work of the Lord and making disciples as we abide here in Tuscarawas County – having our hands to the plough, and not looking back (Lk 9:62) – for His glory until He comes for us!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do or repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"We live in a day of itching ears, but I have no commission from God to scratch them."*

– Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English Christian evangelist/author)

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

– Paul (Colossians 2:8; inspired by the Holy Ghost)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 17:16-21 – Athens (Part One): *Beware of the philosophy and tradition of men!*

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul's *spirit was stirred* by the **IDOLATRY** of the "*learned*" people of Athens, and so *he did something* about it – he *opened his mouth* for his Lord Jesus Christ. 17:16-17

- ✓ His spirit was *stirred* in him *when he saw* the city *wholly given to idolatry*...
Exodus 20:4; 1 Samuel 15:23; 1 Corinthians 10:14; Galatians 5:20; Colossians 3:5; Exodus 32:19-20; Numbers 25:6-11; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Psalm 119:136, 158; Jeremiah 20:9
- ✓ Therefore he disputed in the *synagogue* with the *Jews*, and *devout persons*...
Acts 5:20; 14:1-4; 17:2-4; Romans 10:1; 11:26
- ✓ Therefore he spoke *in the market daily* with them that met with him...
Proverbs 1:20-22; 8:1-4, 34; Mark 16:15; Luke 12:3; Colossians 1:28; 4:6; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2

NOTE While Paul waited for Silas and Timothy at Athens, his spirit was stirred by the idolatry found throughout the city. Historians tell us that there were more idols in Athens than all other parts of Greece combined! What do we learn from this? It is clear from human history that as human learning and human wisdom is increased, so does the level of idolatry. Does that seem right? You might think that with the increase of man's wisdom, his intellect would lead him to want to worship the God of heaven and his Maker more and not less?!? Not so according to the holy words of God's holy Book! When men profess themselves to be wise in this world, they become fools (Rom 1:22). The lost world on its best day cannot know God through worldly wisdom (1 Cor 1:21). But what do we do when we see the lost world enjoying the pleasures of sin (Ps 73:1-12) and the so-called church of God falling away into great apostasy?? When we see the decline of America, the rise of immorality and sin upon sin upon sin upon sin, we should not be content to just stay in our houses and complain about it. We should be on our faces before our God praying with tears (Ps 126:5-6) over such things and then we should obey our Lord Jesus Christ and go out into the streets (Acts 5:20) to tell the world (Mk 16:15) about the coming judgment of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We should be warning people that there is wrath to come, that 10 out of 10 people die, that after death is judgment, and that their sins are not hidden as they think, but open before the all-seeing eyes of a holy God and that even their thoughts, and motives, and secrets (Ecc 12:13-14) will be judged on Judgment Day. The holy Bible is clear, all those who have broken God's Law (the Ten Commandments, 1 Jo 3:4) are presently considered guilty and condemned in God's heavenly court room (John 3:12-21), are standing under the wrath of Almighty God (John 3:36), and will be sentenced (either upon death or the Second Coming of our Lord) to God's eternal prison called hell where there will be eternal torment and damnation as a reward for not obeying the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Paul **preached Christ crucified** and **the resurrection** to the scholarly people of Athens who preferred to **spend all their time TELLING** and **hearing new stories**. 17:18-21

- ✓ Certain philosophers of **the Epicureans** and **the Stoicks** encountered Paul preaching...
Romans 1:22; 1 Corinthians 1:20-21; 3:18; Colossians 2:8; Acts 6:9; Proverbs 23:9; 26:12
- ✓ They wanted to **know more** about this **new doctrine**...
Acts 17:20; 24:24; 25:22; Mark 1:27; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ("Knowledge puffeth up")
- ✓ The truth of the holy Bible was to them like **strange things**...
Hosea 8:12; Matt 19:23-25; Mark 10:24-26; John 6:60; 1 Cor 1:18, 23; 2:14; Hebrews 5:11; 1 Peter 4:4
- ✓ They wanted their **ears tickled** and wanted only **to tell**, or **to hear** some **new thing**...
1 Corinthians **2:1-8** ("enticing words of man's wisdom"); 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-6; **4:1-4**; 1 Kings 22:8, 18; 2 Chronicles 16:9-10; 24:20-22; 25:15-16; **Jeremiah 5:31; 6:16-17**; 18:18; 23:16-17; 27:9; 29:8; Amos 7:10-17; Micah 2:1-11; Luke 6:26; John 3:19-21; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Galatians 4:16

NOTE Woe unto the pastors who lead God's sheep astray (Jer 23:1-2) and who in their rebellion against God and in their human wisdom have chosen only to "teach" instead of **preaching** and who will not stand behind the holy desk of God (the pulpit) and preach the holiness of God, and the justice of God, and the righteousness of His requirements! Woe unto the religious men and women who follow their own lusts and in their rebellion against God have sought out "churches" (so-called) where they can go **as it were** to the theater where they can get their religion tickets punched for the week (appeasing their conscience) and where they can "tell and hear" new fables that sound so pleasing to the ear and never ever would offend anyone! Woe unto those who have heard the holy words from God's holy Bible and have never believed and trusted them and the Savior Jesus Christ who they were written to magnify and exalt! **It is time** for us to give God the glory due His name (1 Chron 16:29; Ps 29:2; 96:8)! **It is time** for God to work because the world and the church have made void His Law (Ps 119:126). **It is time** for the church of God to repent and put away childish things and grow up to maturity in Christ (1 Cor 13:11). **It is time** for the church of God to repent and stop grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) by sinning against Him and crucifying to themselves the Son of God afresh (Hebrews 6:6). **It is time** for the lost to quit your rebellion today and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Acts 16:31).

THE OLD PATHS "If it be foolish to preach up atonement of blood, we will be fools; and if it be madness to stick to the old truth, just as Paul delivered it, in all its simplicity, without any refinement, or improvement, we mean to stick to it, even if we be pilloried as being incapable of progressing with the age, for we are persuaded that this "foolishness of preaching" is a divine ordinance, and that the cross of Christ, which stumbles so many, and is ridiculed by so many more, is still the power of God and the wisdom of God. Yes, just the old-fashioned truth—if thou believest, thou shalt be saved,—that will we stick to, and may God send His blessing upon it according to His own eternal purpose! We do not expect this preaching to be popular, but we know that God will justify it ere long."

— Philadelphia Church Period preacher

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"I believe that the most damnable thing a man can do is to preach the gospel merely as an actor and turn the worship of God into a kind of theatrical performance."*

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; British Baptist pastor called "prince of preachers")

"(Abraham)...He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

– Paul (Romans 4:20-25; inspired by the Holy Ghost)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 17:22-34 – Athens (Part Two): Repent – the resurrected Christ will be your Judge!

NOTES**PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul **stood** and **preached** of God as the **CREATOR** and **Lord of heaven and earth** who has determined the **times before appointed** and the **bounds** of man's habitation. 17:22-25

- ✓ He beheld their **superstitions** and **devotions to idols** and "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD"...
Acts 17:16; 19:35; Jeremiah 10:2,3; 50:18; Romans 1:23-25; 1 Corinthians 8:5
- ✓ God that **made the world and all things therein**, seeing that **He is Lord of heaven and earth**...
Acts 4:24; 14:15; Isaiah 40:12, 28; 45:18; Jeremiah 10:11; 32:17; Zechariah 12:1; Hebrews 1:2; 3:4
- ✓ God has **determined the times before appointed**, and the **bounds of man's habitation**...
Acts 15:18; Job 14:15; Psalms 31:15; Isaiah 45:21; 2 Peter 3:1-18
- ✓ For **in Him** we **live**, and **move**, and **have our being**...
Job 12:10; Psalm 36:9; 66:9; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3
- ✓ We **ought not to think** that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, **graven by art and man's device**...
Acts 7:8; Exodus 20:4; 32:4; 2 Chronicles 2:6; 6:18; Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 40:12-18; 44:9-20; 46:5, 6; 66:1; Jeremiah 10:1-10; Habakkuk 2:19, 20; Romans 1:20-23

NOTE Mark it down – you are without excuse. And, God does not believe in atheists! John 1:9 says that God has put light in every man (Jn 1:9). Romans 2:15 says that God has written His Law (the Ten Commandments) on every human heart and given every man a conscience that testifies to God's truth. Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Psalm 41:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." Beware of self-righteousness! Beware of human wisdom! God that made the world and all things therein has given you an opportunity TODAY – to hear from Him through His holy Book with its holy words – He is trying to get your attention! Proverbs 1:22 says, "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?"

2. Paul preached *repentance toward God* and **FAITH toward the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ** as a ***command to be obeyed by all*** because God has appointed a Day of Judgment. 17:26-34
- ✓ And *the time of this ignorance* God winked at; but **NOW commandeth all men** everywhere to *repent...*
Acts 14:16; Romans 1:28; Matthew 3:2; Mark 6:12; Luke 13:3, 5; 1 Peter 4:1-6
 - ✓ *Because* he hath **appointed a day** in the which *he will judge the world in righteousness ...*
Acts 10:42; Matthew 25:31; John 5:22, 23; Romans 2:5, 16; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 3:7; Jude 14, 15
 - ✓ By *that man* whom He hath ordained; where of *He hath given assurance unto all men...*
Acts 2:23, 24, 32; 3:15, 16; 4:10; 5:30-32; 10:39-41; 13:30-31; Luke 24:46-48; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 - ✓ In that *he hath raised Him from the dead...*
Romans 4:24-25; 8:33-34; 1 Corinthians 15:17; Hebrews 10:12-14; 1 Peter 1:21
 - ✓ When they *heard of the resurrection of the dead*, (1) some mocked: and others said, (2) We will hear thee again of this matter...Howbeit, certain men clave unto him, and (3) believed...
Acts 13:41; 24:25; 2 Chron 36:16; Luke 14:18-20; 22:63; 23:11, 36; 1 Corinthians 1:23; Romans 10:8-17

NOTE According to the holy words of the holy Bible, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was God's assurance unto all men that Jesus Christ was God and that He is going to come again to judge the world in righteousness. Some people hear that God now commands people to repent and think that He must be some mean or "bad" God to do such a thing. They are the same people that think a God that would send someone to an eternal prison called hell which is a place of eternal torment must be a "bad" God since they think that **most** people are inherently good. That could not be further from the truth! He is the definition of good. He is just and holy and righteous! And, He commands repentance because He does not want you to PERISH!!! Only a loving and merciful God would do that! Beware! His great and terrible Day of Judgment is coming and there is wrath to come! Remember, 10 out of 10 people die, and after death is judgment (Heb 9:27). Your sins are not hidden as most people think, but open before the all-seeing eyes of a holy God and that even your thoughts, and motives, and secrets (Ecc 12:13-14) will be judged on Judgment Day. The holy Bible is clear, all those who have broken God's Law (the Ten Commandments, 1 Jo 3:4) are presently considered guilty and condemned in God's heavenly court room (John 3:12-21), are standing under the wrath of Almighty God (John 3:36), and will be sentenced (either upon death or the Second Coming of our Lord) to God's eternal prison called hell where there will be eternal torment and damnation as a reward for not obeying the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has been good to lead you here today to hear this message from Him. Will you quit your rebellion and surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ as you by faith believe on Him alone for salvation? What is so valuable on this earth that you are willing to trade eternity in hell and the lake of fire for the pleasure that it brings you?!? Believe the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ today! Trust Him alone for salvation and to escape God's wrath. You cannot guarantee another day on this earth, and you do not know when your appointment with death will come – it could be before you pillow your head tonight. For the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, I beseech you – repent and trust the Savior today before it is too late.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience *right now*.
 - ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do or repent of** right now?