

Acts of the Apostles 17:1-15 __ Lesson 40

Paul Goes to Synagogues

1. Acts 17:1-2 – Paul in Synagogues

- a. Paul's manner of going to synagogues 9:20; 13:5,14; 14:1; 17:3,10,17; 18:4,19, 19:8
- b. Why did he go to Jewish synagogues (*which are not 1st century churches*)?
 - i. 1) Christ told him to go to the children of Israel - Acts 9:15
 - ii. 2) He had a desire to see his kinsmen saved – Rom 9:1-4, 10:1, 1 Cor 9:20
 - iii. 3) Luke writes about Israel's fall, so he emphasizes Paul's ministry to Israel
 - iv. 4) "Jew first" speaks to historical privilege, but now their fall Ro 2:11, 11:32
 - v. 5) Unbelieving Israel was considered uncircumcised Gal 2:7, Ac 7:51, Ro 2:25
- c. Now, why did Paul preach to Gentiles outside synagogues? 13:49, 14:27, Ro 11:13

2. Acts 17:2-3 – Opening and Alleging

- a. "reasoning ... " - Yes, the Bible is reasonable – Isa 1:18, Acts 18:4, 24:25
- b. "out of the scriptures" – not with philosophy, science, world wisdom
- c. "opening and alleging" – the Bible used to assert facts (truth) → Act 28:23
 - i. 1) Christ must needs have suffered – Luke 24:23, Isa 53, Psa 22
 - ii. 2) Christ must needs have risen again from the dead – Ps 2:7, 16:10, 2Ti 2:8
 - iii. 3) Jesus is Christ! → If Christ, then salvation is from him "whom I preach"
 - iv. Paul preached Jesus Christ acc. to the revelation of the mystery – Ro 16:25
 - v. Jesus as the means of salvation → Acts 13:38-39, 16:31, Gal 2:19, 5:6, 6:14

3. Acts 17:4-9 – Thessalonica Turned Upside Down

- a. Jews = "some", Greeks = "a great multitude", chief women = "not a few"
- b. 17:5 - "Jews... moved with envy" – Why? Christ Jesus to the Gentiles – Ro 11:13-14
- c. 17:6 - The world is backwards, turning it upside is getting it right side up.
- d. 17:7 – "contrary to the decrees of Caesar" – to whom Paul appeals -Ac 25:11, 28:19
- e. 17:9 – The Gentile rulers stopped with a fine... the Jews did not stop there – 17:13

4. Acts 17:10-15 – Berea Stirred Up¹

- a. "into the synagogue of the Jews" – love, boldness, fearless, persistent
- b. "these were more noble" – These, who? These unbelieving Jews in the synagogue
- c. Why were they noble? 17:5 → Thess was an uproar by the "lewd baser sort"
- d. "searched the scriptures" is the slogan that is pulled from the verse.
- e. Berean = Bible study... which is what led to many believing in 17:12
- f. 17:13 - Doing Bible study and doing ministry differ in the place of conviction /stand
- g. Thess "consorted" with Paul– associated, united, became followers of → 1 Th 1:5-8
- h. Thess followed Paul in bold proclamation and persecution – Acts 17:5, 1 Th 2:13-16
- i. Not many noble called (1 Cor 1:26, Rom 16:21, Acts 20:4), but Thess gets 2 epistles

¹ <http://graceambassadors.com/tradition/should-we-be-bereans>