

Acts 17

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Acts 17:1-9 – Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

- Paul left Philippi with his head **high**
- Paul travels through Macedonia, over to Thessalonica
- There Paul made a logical argument with the people
- Reasoning with them that Jesus is the way Acts 17:3
- Some of the Greeks were persuaded to trust in Christ
- the Jews became mad and attacked the house of Jason
- Its possible that Jason could have been related to Paul, so when the Jews could not find Paul or Silas they went for the next best thing
- Jason is **only** mentioned in Acts 17 and also Romans 16:21
- The Jews took Jason before Caesar for worshiping someone other than Caesar - Acts 17:7
- Jason had his money stolen and then was let free

Acts 17:10 – 15 – The Berea

- Paul and Silas were sent away by **night**
- The People of Bereans were very different than anyone else that Paul been
- They were excited to hear what Paul had to share
- They examined the Scripture to make sure what was being said was accurate
- A majority the town was Greek even though it was Roman territory.
- Paul was well received, something out of the normal in the book of Acts
- The Bereans sent Paul on his way **encouraging** him

Acts 17:16-21 – In Athens

- Unlike leaving Thessalonica they were sent out encouraged
- Paul waited for Timothy and Silas to meet him Acts 17:16
- Athens really was a missions field of lost people
- He saw all of the **idols** and decided to confront them
- He talked to people in the synagogues about there idols

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- The response was a split one people group called him a babblers which means “birds picking up seed”
- The second group was confused and thought that Paul was teaching Jesus and Anastasis
- Areopagus is an Athenian **council** or court
- Paul was left at Athens alone – 1 Thessalonians 3:1

Acts 17:22-34 – Paul’s Response

- Paul is to give this account on Mars hill in front of the council
- Paul has a great defense and gives a logical defense for Jesus
- This appeal starts at creation – Acts 17:24
- Paul talks about Gods providence – Acts 17:25
- He shares how he has made himself available to us – Acts 17:27
- Paul separates God from idols and speaks to the sins of Athens – Acts 17:29
- Paul builds up an argument to then bring Jesus into the conversation
- The moment that Paul talks about resurrection from the dead some people start to **mocking** him, while others wanted to hear more
- Paul ended up leaving and some people believed and joined him and others did not
- Athens was a wicked place of idolatry and Paul boldly proclaimed the Gospel
- Not all experiences can be like **Berea**
- Question: Did Paul do a better job in Barea or Athens?

“The man who does not glory in the gospel can surely know little of the plague of sin that is within him. - **J.C. Ryle**