

Week 27

The Mission to Thessalonica & Berea

The Gospel is Not a Message of Peace with the World

In Acts chapter 17, we read about Paul's ministry in Thessalonica and Berea, two cities in Macedonia. Paul went to the Jewish synagogues and preached that Jesus was the Christ, the promised Messiah who had to suffer and rise from the dead. He used the Scriptures to reason with them and persuade them of this truth.

Some of the Jews and many of the Gentiles believed Paul's message and joined him and Silas. However, some of the Jews were jealous and angry. They formed a mob and stirred up trouble in the city. They attacked the house of Jason, a believer who had welcomed Paul and Silas, and accused them of defying Caesar and proclaiming another king, Jesus.

Paul and Silas had to escape by night and went to Berea, another city with a Jewish synagogue. There they found more receptive listeners who eagerly examined the Scriptures daily to see if Paul's message was true. Many of them believed, both Jews and Greeks, including some prominent women.

But the Jews from Thessalonica followed Paul to Berea and agitated the crowds against him. Paul had to leave again this time for Athens, while Silas and Timothy stayed behind in Berea.

What can we learn from this chapter? We can see how Paul was faithful in preaching the gospel despite opposition and persecution. He did not compromise or water down his message, but boldly declared that Jesus was the Christ who died and rose again. He also respected his audience and used the Scriptures as his authority, showing them how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies.

We can also see how different people responded to Paul's message. Some believed and rejoiced, some rejected and opposed, some were curious and searched. We can ask ourselves: How do we respond to the gospel? Do we believe it with all our heart? Do we reject it with hostility? Do we examine it with diligence?

Finally, we can see how Paul's message caused unrest in some places. The gospel is not a message of peace with the world, but of peace with God through Jesus Christ. The gospel challenges the idols and values of this world and calls people to repentance and faith. The gospel may bring us into conflict with those who do not believe or obey it.

But we can also see how Paul's message brought joy and hope to those who believed. The gospel is a message of grace and truth, of forgiveness and new life, of love and fellowship. The gospel unites us with Christ and with one another as his body.

Let us pray that God would give us courage and wisdom to share the gospel like Paul did, and that he would open the hearts of those who hear it to receive it with joy. Our World is desperate for this good news!

C. THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (15:36-18:22)

- 1 Paul and Barnabas Disagree on John Mark (15:36-40)
2. Syria and Cilicia Revisited (15:41)
3. Paul/Timothy to Galatia To Deliver Council's Decrees (16:1-5)
4. From Galatia-Mysia- To Troas (16:6-10)
 - a. The Spirit prevents them and changes their agenda (16:6-7)
 - b. God communicates through visions
5. The Work in Philippi (16:11-40)
 - a. Lydia is converted (16:11-15)
 - b. Paul and Silas are jailed unjustly (16:16-24)
 - c. Paul and Silas are miraculously released (16:25-30)
 - d. The Jailer is converted (16:30-34)
6. The Work at Thessalonica (17:1-9)
 - a. The riotous response to the gospel
7. The Work in Berea (17:10-14)
 - a. A scholarly response to the gospel

Revive Us Again: How the Church Changed the World and Can Again

Study Notes – Week 27

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.