

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

NT Survey Lesson 67--Acts 17

Introduction: Luke continues his history of the early church by describing the preaching journey of Paul through Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. At each location remarkable events transpired from which we may learn valuable lessons about the work of preaching the gospel. Paul's sermon on Mars Hill is a masterpiece on idolatry versus the true God.

Paul preaches in Thessalonica and Berea--Ac. 17:1-15

1. Where did Paul look for fertile soil for the gospel in Thessalonica? What appeal did he make to these hearers? What was their response?
2. From what groups were there respondents to the gospel?
3. How did the Jews seek to bring the preaching work of Paul and Silas to an end? Were their charges true? If not, how would you answer them?
4. How did the attitude of the Bereans differ from the Thessalonians?
5. Who were some of the converts in Berea?
6. What did the Jews from Thessalonica do? To what city did Paul go?

Paul's preaching work in Athens--Ac. 17:16-34

1. What was Paul's response to the many idols he saw in Athens?
2. Where did Paul look for contacts to teach? How did the philosophical community react to Paul's teaching?
3. Why would you say Paul's sermon on Mars Hill was a good one?
4. With what did Paul introduce his sermon? About what did he say he wanted to talk?
5. What did Paul affirm about God in this sermon? How did this concept of God differ from the idolatrous concept?

6. What then did Paul want the Athenians to believe? What did he want them to do?
7. What motivation did he give them to do this?
8. What were the various reactions to the sermon?
9. What does this episode tell us about the work of preaching the gospel?