

Acts Part 34

Rhythms:

Sleep rhythm. What time do you go to bed? How cool/warm do you keep your bedroom?

eating rhythm. Are you strict during the week, and eat whatever on the weekends? :)

Gospel rhythms...how do you read the bible? What other books do you read? How do you prepare to talk to people about Jesus?

Acts 17:1-16

After they passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As usual, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah." 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women.

I. Rhythms of life

- Thessalonica is the next city on their list. Huge city! (v.1)



- Port city. (People from all over) Any of you grow up in a town where everyone is virtually the same?
- Commercial traffic. Lots of trade going inland. Busy roads, highways
- 200,000 population
- Lots of money and movement!
- Enough Jews to form a synagogue (10) (v.2)
- Paul shares the gospel. Not half, not detailed theology, just the clear truth.
- Gospel + Nothing.
- Jesus is Messiah. Savior of the world. Redeemer of sins. Head of the Church. Sinless man. Perfect God. Beginning and the End. The only way to God. End of story
- People are saved (men AND WOMEN are saved. Women matter!!)

GOD SAVES PEOPLE BY HIS MIRACULOUS POWER, FOR HIS OWN GLORY, THROUGH THE CHURCH'S FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

Riot in the City

5 But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. 6 When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, 7 and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king—Jesus." 8 The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset. 9 After taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

II. **Conflict and Confirmation**

- Christians should expect strife. Dislike. Disagreement. Being lied about. Angst. Suffering. If you aren't experiencing any of these things, your process is skewed. You are living the Christian life the wrong way

THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO SAVE...THOSE GOD IS CALLING

THE GOSPEL ALSO HAS THE POWER TO ENRAGE...THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIM

- The Gospel offended these people. How dare Paul and company tell them they needed to stop living how they had decided was good for them

The Bereans Search the Scriptures

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.



Upon arrival, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

- What do the Bereans do when they hear Paul's message of the Gospel?
- What were their rhythms? To check the scriptures!
- Are we doing this?
- What are Paul's rhythms? What has he been called to do?
- He enters the local synagogue and continues to:
- Speak up, speak out, and TELL THE TRUTH.

1st Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Proverbs 18:15

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

- Knowledge is the platform(platform between God's knowledge and man's need for knowledge)
- Acquiring and seeking are the means to obtain it
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12 Consequently, many of them believed, including a number of the prominent Greek women as well as men.

- Did you notice something?
- Luke puts the women coming to Christ first :)
- Women are just as important and share the same value as men. Human leadership's responsibility is to care for those God has decided are important

13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul at Berea, they came there too, agitating and upsetting the crowds.

- This has happened to Paul several times. Haters have followed him to another town. Who is really behind this?
- Lies are again told, and suffering ensues
- What must the church do?
- Realize this is our NEW NORMAL.

14 Then the brothers and sisters immediately sent Paul away to go to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed on there. 15 Those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible, they departed.

- Spending time in prayer, asking God for His guidance, doing the best they can to continue sharing the truth with people!
- What are we called to do this week? This Fall? The rest of our lives?
- Read scripture. Love one another. Pray. confess, and share what you have learned. Repeat.