

## Acts 17:1-15

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6-28-17

### Context

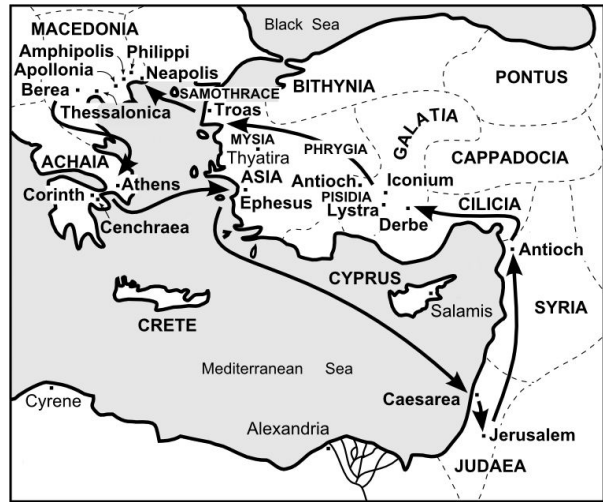
#### IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)**
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

#### The Mission in Thessalonica (17:1-9)

The mission continued in spite of having “suffered and been mistreated” in Philippi (Cf. I Thess. 2:1-2)

- 100 mile journey SW (see map)
- Thessalonica
  - Capital of Macedonian province
  - Harbor town & commercial center
  - Home of Jewish synagogue
- V. 2 - Paul’s custom (for 3 consecutive Sabbaths):
  - \_\_\_\_\_ from the Scriptures (vv. 2b-3a)
    - His standard Christian \_\_\_\_\_ towards Jewish people
    - Jesus himself set the \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Luke 9:22; 24:25-27; 44-46)
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (v. 3b)
    - Gave a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ account of his saving life and ministry.
- The results: They were \_\_\_\_\_
  - V. 4 - “some of them were persuaded” (including Aristarchus and Secundus, cf. 20:4; 27:2)
  - Vv. 5-6 - “But the Jews, becoming jealous...taking along some wicked men...formed a mob. etc.”
    - The accusations
      - V. 6 - Ἀναστατώω (anastatoō) - to throw into commotion, causing radical social upheaval
        - Revolutionary overtones (cf. 21:38 - used of an Egyptian terrorist who started a revolt)
      - V. 7 - Charged with \_\_\_\_\_
        - Same accusations against Jesus
        - The Christian fine line:
          - Conscientious, law-abiding citizens who give supreme homage and total obedience to Jesus alone
    - V. 9 - More than bail, but the threat of severe penalties (cf. I Thes. 2:18)



### The Mission in Berea (17:10-15)

- V. 10 - smuggled out under the cover of darkness. Berea = 50 miles SW
- Followed same pattern
  - Vv. 11-12 - The Jews:
    - More noble in their character, morals, and treatment of the apostles and the gospel
    - “received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so”
      - Eagerness, frequency, and diligence indicates their \_\_\_\_\_
      - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
        - Ἀνακρίνω (anakrino) - examine closely (cf. judicial investigation), implying integrity and absence of personal bias
      - “Berean” = people who study the Scriptures with impartiality and care
- The results: They were \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 12-13)
- V. 14 - “immediately” sent away
- V. 15 - Paul heads another 300 miles to Athens

### Reflections

- A significant aspect: The \_\_\_\_\_ toward the Scriptures.
  - In Thessalonica, Paul:
    - “reasoned” with them from the Scriptures, “explained,” “gave evidence,” “proclaimed,” and “persuaded”
  - In Berea, the Jews:
    - “Received” the word with “great eagerness,” and diligently “examined” the Scriptures
  - Neither group used scripture in a \_\_\_\_\_ way
    - Paul “argued” *from* the Scriptures and the Bereans “examined” to see if his arguments were valid
- The beauty of true religion:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (theological content) vs. \_\_\_\_\_ (tyrannical instruction demanding uncritical acceptance)
  - Allows itself to be \_\_\_\_\_
  - Both argument and study are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s word
  - Bathed in \_\_\_\_\_ and guided by the \_\_\_\_\_