

# Turning the World Upside Down

## (Acts 17:1-15)

### Introduction:

Paul and Silas move from Philippi into Thessalonica and Berea. The same gospel produces different responses: rejection, belief, hostility, and noble examination. Luke shows us not only what Paul preached, but how people responded to the Word of God.

- I. Faithful Proclamation of the Gospel (v. 1-3)
  - a. Paul follows his custom – the synagogue (v. 2, 13:5, 14:1)
  - b. Paul's method
    - Reasoned (dialogue, explanation)
    - Explained (opened the scriptures)
    - Proved (showed necessity)
  - c. Paul's Message
    - The suffering Messiah
    - The resurrected Christ
    - Jesus is the Christ

Truth: Biblical preaching is not opinion-driven but Scripture-centered and Christ-focused.

### II. Mixed Responses to the Gospel (v. 4-9)

- a. Responses Identified:
  - Belief - Some Jews, many God-fearing Greeks, and prominent women (v. 4)
  - Jealousy - Unbelieving Jews stirred up opposition (v. 5)
  - Hostility - Mob violence and false accusations (v. 5-7)
  - Political Framing - "Another king, Jesus" (v. 7)

Truth: The gospel divides – drawing some to salvation and provoking resistance in others.

### III. The Cost of Gospel Faithfulness (v. 8-10a)

- a. Believers act wisely, not fearfully
- b. Jason pays a price for association with the gospel (v. 9)
- c. Opposition does not stop the mission – it redirects it

Truth: Faithfulness to Christ often carries personal and communal costs.

#### **IV. Nobel Reception of the Word (v. 10b-12)**

##### **a. Characteristics of the Bereans:**

- **Eagerness - Ready hearts**
- **Discernment - Examined the scriptures daily**
- **Scriptural Authority - Even apostolic teaching tested by Scripture**
- **Fruitfulness - “Therefore many of them believed” (v. 12)**

**Truth: Spiritual nobility is measured by a humble, Scripture-examining heart.**

#### **V. Persevering Mission Despite Opposition (v. 13-15)**

- Opposition follows faithful ministry**
- Paul is protected so the mission can continue**
- Silas and Timothy remain to strengthen the church**

**Truth: God preserves His servants and His mission – even when opposition intensifies.**

#### **Conclusion:**

**Acts 17 reminds us that the question is not whether the gospel will face resistance, but how we will respond to it. Like Paul, we must proclaim it faithfully. Like the Bereans, we must receive it humbly. And like the early church, we must continue forward courageously, trusting God to use His Word.**