

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 36:  
The Forest, Some Trees, & an Upside-Down World

Key Passage: Acts 17:1-9

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. 6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, 7 and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. 9 And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

### On the Road

- ❖ Leaving Philippi

- Entering Thessalonica

- ❖ Three Sabbaths of Proof

- He reasoned with them, "proving it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, saying 'This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.'" (Acts 17:3)

- ❖ Isaiah 53:3-4

3 He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

❖ Zechariah 12:10

- “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

### **The Forest & Some Trees**

- ❖ Missing the Forest for the Trees
  - Don't forget to celebrate the “some” Jesus won!
- ❖ Upside-Down World
  - When you get saved, Jesus turns your life upside-down.

### **Time is Short!**

- ❖ Paul and Silas
  - Persecution rose up!
  - Time to move on *again*
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
  - “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— 7 for this reason, brothers, in all our

distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. 8  
For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanksgiving can  
we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God,  
10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face  
and supply what is lacking in your faith? 11 Now may our God and Father  
himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 12 and may the Lord make  
you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13  
so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and  
Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

❖ The House of Jason

- The meeting place for the Church of God in Thessalonica.

❖ Call to Prayer

- Remember the “Paul’s” in your life.
  - Those who ministered to you for a short time.
- Remember the “Timothy’s”
  - Those who encouraged you and held you accountable.
- Remember the “some”
  - Those who *you* have led to the Lord and encouraged.