

Living in the Promises of Jesus  
Acts 17 - 18  
Lesson 13

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 17

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below a group of key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way

**Key Words:** believed/persuaded, and Scriptures/word

THESSALONICA: Read Acts 17:1-8

1. Leaving Philippi, Paul, Silas, and Timothy traveled through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia and stopped in the seaport city of Thessalonica. They stopped at the synagogue. What does verse 2 tells us about how long they were there and what they did?
  - a. According to verse 3, what did Paul explain to them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why is it important to believe that Jesus is the Messiah and we not to look for another?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. The Jews were looking for the Messiah to come as a king. Why was it important for the Christ to:
    - Suffer: (1 Peter 2:24)
    - Rise again: (Acts 13:35,37)

2. According to Acts 17:4, what was the result of their *explaining and demonstrating the Gospel*?
  - a. Think back to when you first believed. What was it about the Gospel that led you to believe?
3. Acts 17:5 reveals the other side of the reaction of the people. What are we told about those who were not persuaded?
4. When they did not find Paul and the others, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city. What was their accusation? Verses 6,7

BEREA: Read Acts 17:10-15

1. Escaping Thessalonica, Paul and Silas went to Berea, and according to their custom, went first to the synagogue. They discovered the Bereans to be more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica. According to Acts 17:11, what two things did they do?
  - 1)
  - 2)
2. In your own words, describe what it is like to receive the word with all readiness.
  - a. How does this speak to you about the attitude you should have when the word of God is being taught?
3. Why is it important that we measure what is being taught to us by the word of God?

4. According to Acts 17:12, what was the result of their comparing Paul's teaching with the Scriptures?
  
5. The Jews from Thessalonica were not content to simply expel Paul and Silas from their city. When they heard that the word of God was being preached in Berea, what did they do? Verse 13
  
6. Immediately the brethren sent Paul away to Athens. Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. However, Paul soon sent for them to come to him with all speed. Although Paul seems to be the main speaker of the group, he longed for his companions. What does this say to you about the importance of those who come alongside others in ministry?

ATHENS: Acts 17:16-21

1. It had been said that there were more idols than people in the city of Athens. What was Paul's reaction when he saw that the city was given over to idols?
  - a. What do you think it means that his spirit was provoked within him?
  
  - b. What provokes your spirit?
  
2. Acts 17:17 begins with the word *therefore*, revealing what Paul did in response to what provoked him. What did he do?
  
3. The curiosity of many in Athens was aroused. Why did they think Paul was a proclaimer of foreign gods?

4. Using Acts 17:21, describe how the Athenians spent their time.
  - a. Why do you think people, even many Christians, are attracted to some new thing?

THE AREOPAGUS IN ATHENS: Read Acts 17:22-34

1. As a result of Paul's teaching he was taken before the Areopagus, the religious council of Athens, to make known the truths he was proclaiming. With what words did he begin his message? verse 22
  - a. Share the wisdom of beginning a message or conversation with positive words.
2. Using Acts 17:24-31, list the statements Paul made about God.
  - a. In what ways is God unlike the gods of the Athenians?
3. Consider verse 27. What does it mean to you that God has done so much because He desires that you seek Him?
  - a. The Bible is like a light in the dark, how is searching after God apart from the Bible like groping in the dark?
4. We are His offspring (verse 28). Therefore, since we are His offspring, what ought we not to think? see verse 29

5. According to Acts 17:31, what is the assurance that God has given us?
  - a. How does the fact that Christ rose from the dead, give you assurance of what God has said and His intentions?
  
6. Using verses 32,34 record the people's reaction to Paul's message.

MINISTRY OF PAUL IN CORINTH: Read Acts 18:1-17

1. From Athens, Paul traveled to the city of Corinth. Corinth was also well known for its immorality. Paul had sent Timothy and Silas to Macedonia. He quickly found two fellow believers. Who were they?
  - a. What did Paul write about them in Romans 16:3?
  
2. After the arrival of Silas and Timothy, we are told that Paul testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. What word in this verse expresses Paul's incentive?
  - a. Using synonyms, define the word compelled.
  
  - b. Describe what it is like to be compelled by the Spirit to do something?
  
3. Paul's message was opposed. He shook his garments. Then what did he say to them?
  - a. How does the message of Ezekiel 33:4 apply to Paul's statement to those who opposed him?

4. In the midst of opposition and rejection, Acts 18:8 records a salvation which must have been a great encouragement to Paul. What prominent Jewish man believed?
  - a. Who else believed?
  
5. The conversion of the ruler of the synagogue could certainly provoke persecution from those who opposed Paul. What were the words of encouragement given to Paul by the Lord? verses 9,10
  - a. Underline the first four words of this vision. How does it encourage you to know that even a man as bold as Paul had times of being afraid?
  
  - b. The Lord did not simply tell Paul do not be afraid. He gave him a reason in verse 10. What was it?
    - 1.) In what ways is God's presence an antidote to being afraid?
  
    - 2.) The Lord also told Paul I have many people in this city. Fear often causes us to feel very alone. What are some other misperceptions we can have when we are fearful?
  
6. God did not promise Paul that there would be no further opposition in Corinth. What happened according to Acts 18:12-17?
  - a. As you consider this story, reflect upon God's faithfulness to the words of Paul's vision. In what ways do you see God's faithfulness to His promise to Paul?

PAUL RETURNS TO ANTIOCH: Read Acts 18:18-23

1. After remaining a good while in Corinth, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila sailed for Syria. Paul had his hair cut off at Cenchrea. Why?
2. Where did Paul go next?
  - a. Paul would later return to Ephesus, but this stay in Ephesus would be brief. However, Paul did not ignore the spiritual need of the people in this city. What did he do? verse 19
  - b. Rather than oppose Paul in some way, what was the response of some of the people? verse 20
    - 1.) Although these words must have been a great encouragement to Paul, what did he tell them?

MINISTRY OF APOLLOS: Acts 18:24-28

1. Acts 18:24 introduces us to Apollos. What do these verses tell us about him?
  - Verse 24
  - Verse 25
2. Apollos taught accurately the things of the Lord, yet was limited in what he could share because he knew only the baptism of John. According to Matthew 3:1,2, what was John the Baptist's message?
  - a. What result did his message have? Matthew 3:5,6
  - b. How did John, himself, indicate that his message was limited? Mark 1:7,8

- c. In Acts 1 we read that before He ascended, Jesus gathered His apostles together and commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father. Acts 1:4 According to Acts 1:5, what type of baptism had already been given (by John)?
- 1.) What baptism did Jesus tell them to wait for?
3. As Apollos boldly spoke out the things that he did know, how did Priscilla and Aquila assist him with the things he did not know? verse 26
4. Acts 18:27 tells us that Apollos desired to go to Achaia. The brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him. This would indicate that Apollos had a teachable spirit. What can we learn about true wisdom from the following verses:
- Proverbs 1:5
  - Proverbs 8:33
  - Proverbs 9:9
  - James 3:17

REVIEW:

1. Share something that spoke to you about Paul's time with the:
- Thessalonians
  - Bereans
  - Athenians
2. Paul's spirit was provoked when he saw the prominence of idol worship in Athens. What do you think would provoke Paul if he came to the United States today?



3. What stood out to you as you studied Paul's ministry in Corinth?
  
4. God encouraged Paul by reminding him that He had many people in Corinth. What does this say to you about your responsibility to come alongside other believers who are being opposed?
  - a. What are some specific ways you might encourage them?