



**Remaining Strong Under Attack  
Learning to Become a Berean  
Acts 17:1-17**

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**Acts 17:1–17**

**“Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul’s custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” And some of**



them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a significant number of the leading women. But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and they attacked the house of Jason and were seeking to bring them out to the people. When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them. The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Therefore, many of them believed, along with a significant number of prominent Greek women and men. But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds. Then immediately the brothers sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there. Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left. Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he observed that the city was full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be present." (NASB 2020)

I have a question for all of us. Why is it, that when we share the good news of Jesus Christ, we find out that it becomes a problem for those we are talking to. We literally are carrying the message that gives eternal life and yet, simply because we stand up for Jesus Christ, we are talked down to, shunned, not allowed even the basics of consideration, hated, or lied to about the availability of property or virtually everything else too.?

It is because we do indeed bring the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. Paul, when writing to one of the cities that he ministers to on this missionary trip, makes it clear why that is the case.

2 Corinthians 2:15–17

**"For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ."** (ESV)

As we talk about Jesus, there are those who respond and come to a saving knowledge of the Lord, and then there are those who have no desire at all to come to Christ and all we are doing is reminding them of their soon impending death and judgment.

We are indeed not peddling the word of God or the gospel of Jesus Christ to make a buck. There are way too many who are and even Paul had to deal with them, otherwise he would not have made the reference to them.

Those who are peddling the word say nice things about you as they talk to you and make you feel really good about yourself, but they tend to fail to mention that without Jesus Christ, you are lost and without hope. Instead, as a good salesperson, they leave you feeling up and affirmed.

Meanwhile, we continue to share the truth of the word.



Paul and the team have begun to confront that very thing with what took place in Philippi and will once again confront the anger of the enemy as reflected in the self-righteous indignation of those who are alleged to be His own people, the Hellenistic Jews.

Paul and Silas, with Timothy, leave Philippi and they travel on the Via Egnatia, a major Roman road in Macedonia, heading towards the southwest towards Thessalonica. We know that Doctor Luke has remained behind based on the grammar used as he writes about this in Acts. We pick up in Acts 17.

Acts 17:1–3

“Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul’s custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”” (NASB 2020)

It is a two-day trip by foot to Thessalonica and needless to say, Paul and Silas are not in the best physical condition to even be traveling but they could not remain in Philippi. Having Timothy along helps.

Thessalonica was founded around 315 BC by the Macedonian general Cassander who had destroyed around twenty-six towns in the region and then “settled all the inhabitants together in one city.” Thessalonica was capital of the second district of Macedonia. It was given many political freedoms by Rome due to its loyalty to Antony and Octavian in the battle at Philippi (in Macedonia), where Cassius and Brutus were defeated. Octavian, the first emperor of Rome (31 BC–AD 14), known as Caesar Augustus, looked favorably on Thessalonica, which was a “free city” (civitas libera). (Comfort 2019, 583)

Thessalonica is a privileged large city there in Macedonia. After passing through Amphipolis, most likely overnighing there, they went through Appolonia and arrived in Thessalonica. This is a hard and fast trip as they are now 62 miles south and west of Philippi.

They arrive in time to find a place to stay and then prepare for their first Sabbath there in town. Here, there is a Jewish community so Paul and Silas can return to the play book that worked well for Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary trip. Go to the Jews first and give them the good news of Jesus. That is exactly what the team begins to do on that first Sabbath.

The text tells us that the team was able to διαλέξατο (dialexato) in the synagogue for three consecutive Sabbaths. The word is translated reasoned and yes, we get the word dialogue from this Greek word. The Greek word means “to engage in speech interchange, converse, discuss, argue...instructional discourse that frequently includes exchange of opinions.” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 232) We would indeed say dialogue or debate but even in our nation, people are being killed for doing this. The anger of Satan towards the truth is being reflected in those who follow him.

Unfortunately, that is not a new thing as we will indeed see the return of something we saw earlier during the first missionary trip, active violent persecution and slander from those who are supposed to be kinsmen, fellow Jews.

Here in Thessalonica, Paul and bulk of the team are able to actually dialogue in the Synagogue for three straight Sabbaths on top of the teaching and ministry they will be doing elsewhere during the week.

The message being communicated to those in the Synagogue is referenced for us, Paul was showing them that the Messiah they are looking for has arrived and His name is Jesus Christ. Was there a response to the message?



Acts 17:4

“And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a significant number of the leading women.” (NASB 2020)

There appears to be a rather sizeable number of God fearers and proselytes in the synagogue. It is possible that is what made up the majority of those who were attending. But many Jews also responded.

The majority of those who believed what he was teaching were God-fearing Gentiles. In that number were a large number of leading Macedonian women who also were God fearers. Being leading women of the community, this had provided the Synagogue finances as well as notoriety. And just as was seen in the first missionary trip, when those in the synagogue come to Christ, concern among the leadership turns to jealousy. Not only do these people leave, but they are forming a fellowship, a church elsewhere and taking their money with them. They also were not happy about the number of potential proselytes being saved.

On the one hand, you have the Jews looking to expand their footprint by attracting some to worshipping YAHWEH and following Torah. Yeah, there was that pesky issue of circumcision for the men. And then all the various rules and laws you find out you must follow made it a bit burdensome as well for someone coming from a pagan background, thus more God fearers than true proselytes.

Then these Christian missionaries show up and what they are teaching is all those laws and things the Torah teaches, well there were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. No circumcision, no laws or to do's, just repentance and faith. The Jewish leadership were not happy about this.

Imagine being jealous over the work of the Lord. I wish I could say that no longer takes place, but sadly, it still does. Some in the synagogue were, indeed, jealous. Paul and the team had only been there about three weeks, too long as far as those jealous folks were concerned. They were able to convince some of the local hoods at the marketplace to help deal with the missionaries and somehow the team found out about the conspiracy. They became unavailable. When the conspirators arrived where the team had been staying, at Jason's house, they grabbed Jason and stirred up the crowd and the officials against Paul and the team, but no Paul and the team.

The accusations made are classic.

Acts 17:5–9

“But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and they attacked the house of Jason and were seeking to bring them out to the people. When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brothers before the city authorities, shouting, **“These men who have upset the world have come here also; and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”** They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.” (NASB 2020)

Paul and the team had been there for almost three whole weeks. There is a new growing church. People are being saved, and the teaching away from the synagogue has been in-depth. But they are only there for a short time.

Paul will wind up doing some teaching course corrections via a couple of letters he will write to them later from Corinth. But here is the amazing thing, he taught them eschatology, last things, while he was there. The church was looking for the rapture of the church already and had to be corrected by Paul over false teachers who would wander into town and try to distract them. Plus, this would be a persecuted church.



The team had been staying with Jason, but had caught wind of the impending raid and were “not available” when the mob arrived.

Remember, this has been incited by a group of jealous individuals who are upset over the large number of influential citizens, God fearers, who have left and followed Jesus.

Dragging Jason before the city leadership, a new allegation is introduced against the missionary team, sedition. Fortunately, the leadership here was a bit saner than in Philippi. “The evidence for the charge was scanty, and the men against whom it was really brought

could not be found. Jason and his associates were made responsible for seeing that there was no more trouble; they had to give security for the missionaries’ good conduct, and this meant in practice that the missionaries had to leave the city quietly and not return.” (Bruce 1988, 325-326)

This brand-new church had to agree to remove the leading teachers and pastors in their midst and sneak them out of town thanks to the jealousy of those still at the Synagogue.

Paul and the team had no choice but to suddenly leave. He really did want to return but the Lord made it clear not to (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

God is doing a marvelous work, but Satan will indeed use anyone and any method to try and destroy the work. Here he is using religion to do so. Thrown in with slander and a turning towards the system to try and enforce alleged failures of the law. All because of jealousy over losing people and finances to this new church in town.

Some of the brothers in the church help to sneak them out of town to Berea. This is an out of the way, off the main road type of a trip. “Traveling “out of the way,” however, may have been precisely the objective: opponents would be more likely to look for Paul on the main roads west (the Via Egnatia) and south (toward Achaia; cf. 1 Kgs 13:12). It also appears that Paul hoped to receive word that circumstances had changed in Thessalonica, since he seems to have attempted more than once to return (1 Thess 2:17–18); in this hope he was apparently disappointed, but Berea allowed him greater access to Thessalonica than he had once he journeyed farther south. (Keener 2014, 2561)

Acts 17:10

“The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and **when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.**” (NASB 2020)

Paul and Silas arrive in Berea with Timothy, and it looks like they arrive just prior to the Sabbath because after traveling overnight, they get right to the business of evangelism again and follow the process by once again, starting at the Synagogue.

And it was here that he met a group of people who took their faith seriously, they searched the scriptures after they would hear someone speak.

Acts 17:11–12

**“Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Therefore, many of them believed, along with a significant number of prominent Greek women and men.”** (NASB 2020)



We learn a concept here that is neglected by way too many in this information age. We all have access to resources online that no one in the ancient world had. You would assume that all synagogues would at least have a Torah scroll, but not all did. The Bereans had that and had something else, a teachable spirit.

For us today, there are two ways to approach studying the Bible.

The first approach is one that many take today because it is a path that false teachers encourage and applaud. Unlike the Middle Ages where most were illiterate, and the intent was to control folks by making them think you literally could control their eternal destinations, people today, for the most part can read and although there are still some who do believe that men can control their eternal destination, most no longer would agree with that idea. Instead, a false teacher will try to create the impression in you that they are truly the only ones who are capable of opening up the Bible to you.

They will advertise they have been to school, they have had the special training, they have received a “special” anointing of the Holy Spirit and only they can reveal the “true” intent of the scriptures. In other words, there is no need for you to look this up on your own since “I” have the specialized teaching and training to tell you what it means, you simply don’t know this or how to do this.

If you have ever heard anyone, say that or act like they are the repository of all wisdom and knowledge of the Bible, run, do not walk away.

Religion wants you to not look things up on your own.

Religion will feed you just enough truth to get you to buy what they are saying, establish some trust and then fall asleep. It is then they roll out the big ones, the lie here and the lie there. The goal of religion is to intentionally mislead you, take your loyalty, take your money, take your peace and then take you to hell.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.** By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” (NKJV)

Those who do this are liars and many of them are themselves being deceived by others who are lying to them.

2 Timothy 3:13

**“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”** (NKJV)

When I tell you to be a Berean, I am saying that we all need to be teachable, to listen to what is being taught, but do not take it as carte blanche truth until you have indeed checked it out. Do not believe everything I say but look it up in the Bible for yourself to see if it is true. That is what is going on in the Synagogue in Berea.

You see, those who are false teachers want to keep you and me away from doing this, they want us to think they are the only ones who can rightly divide the truth. But Jesus taught otherwise.

You see, as followers of Jesus Christ, the moment we believe, He seals the deal by giving us the downpayment of our eternity, the downpayment is the Holy Spirit. Welcome to the actual way we are to study God’s word.





God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit lives inside of each of us.

John 14:16–17

**“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (ESV)

The Holy Spirit in us is the key to understand the Bible.

John 14:26

**“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”** (ESV)

Because the Holy Spirit is in us and teaching us, He will also keep us from running off where we should not be going.

John 15:26 **“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”** (ESV)

If someone is trying to draw you away from Jesus, the Holy Spirit will make that obvious to us.

You and I are more than qualified, as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, to read the word and understand what it is the Lord is telling us in His word. He loves you and me and wants us to know what His word says. That is the job of the Holy Spirit. God, in the person of the Holy Spirit is the one who is responsible for all we see in the Bible, all of it. He invites us to ask Him if we come across something that is a problem. He wants us to know and as the author says, “ask me.” He will not keep you and me in the dark about what He wants us to know.

I mean, Jesus Christ loves us, died on the cross for us, made sure we have the Holy Spirit to show us the word, so yes, this is important.

Don’t let so called teachers rip you off by implying that you cannot know the “deep things” of the word unless you follow them, or use their tools, or study the way they study.

The way to study is simple, get a Bible, a notebook and a pen or pencil. Pray, ask the Lord to open up His word to you, and dig in. As you start there, you will find things you ask questions about, sometimes what a word means, why was it used this way, and on and on. There are excellent tools, both analog and digital available to assist you, if you want to go there. But if you have His word, His Spirit, and a teachable heart, there is not much more needed.

Ecclesiastes 12:11–13

**“The sayings of the wise are like the sharp sticks that shepherds use to guide sheep, and collected proverbs are as lasting as firmly driven nails. They have been given by God, the one Shepherd of us all. My son, there is something else to watch out for. There is no end to the writing of books, and too much study will wear you out. After all this, there is only one thing to say: have reverence for God, and obey his commands, because this is all that human beings were created for.”** (GNB)

2 Timothy 2:15

**“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** (NKJV)



John 16:13–15

**“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (ESV)

When I teach, I am asking for the Holy Spirit to use me to communicate His word to you, to explain it hopefully in a simple manner so we can all understand. Before I can teach His word, I have to understand His word as well and yep, I am relying on the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to me.

How do those who teach false teachings try to keep us from the word? How do they keep us away from the truth and believe their lies? They work on our emotions. They play the Holy Spirit card, at least they want you to think what they are doing is empowered by the Holy Spirit, it may be a spirit, just not the Holy Spirit. They want to keep you and me from objective truth, which is where the Holy Spirit will drive to. Instead, they tell stories to solicit subjective feelings. Come and feel the spirit. Ignore truth, feel along with us. Ummmmm. Now let's sing Kumbaya together.

This is exactly where the Mormons drive to, a subjective feeling misinterpreted as truth.

This is also where our culture drives to as well. My truth is my truth, and your truth is your truth. But what about the objective true truth of God's word? The problem with relying on subjective feelings is simple and there are two places to go and examine what God says about this. “We must depend on the Bible alone, which says nothing about trusting our feelings.” (Decker 1995, 120)

Proverbs 14:12

**“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”** (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:9

**“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”** (ESV)

There is no guarantee from the Bible (or even from our own experiences in life) that our feelings can be trusted. How many times have you felt sure that you were right about something, only to find out you were wrong? How often have people felt sure that someone really loved them, and then found out they were deceiving themselves without even knowing it? If we can be this easily deceived in human relationships, why trust our immortal souls on such emotional, unreliable methods? (Decker 1995, 121)

But people do this all the time which is the point of why Luke is camping on this idea here of the manner the locals in Berea reacted to what they heard in the Synagogue from Paul and Silas. They looked it up and found out what they were being told was objectively true.

The result, they believed. And not just a few, but many, to also include proselytes and God fearers as well. Of course, it was just a matter of time until someone from the Synagogue had a business trip to Thessalonica. They were most likely excited of their new faith and thought others in the Synagogue of feelings would think the same, nope.

Acts 17:13

**“But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.”** (NASB 2020)

This level of persecution is Satanic. We see this all across our nation today as folks are irrational in their hatred over things that honestly, are not goofy wrong, but are what we would expect to see in a civil society. This would include things like the teaching of God's word, revival, or even the rule of law and





supporting those involved in law enforcement. But our culture wants to “feel” that they are doing the right thing, so they redefine wrong as right and then get upset when you don’t agree with their new definitions of right.

Isaiah 5:20–23

**“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!” (ESV)**

Some of us find ourselves echoing Habakkuk as we look at our culture these days. We long for a pouring out of the Holy Spirit, to see our community come to Jesus Christ.

But as we look around us, we see what Habakkuk saw.

Habakkuk 1:2–4

“How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! “Violence is everywhere!” I cry, but you do not come to save. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.” (NLT)

The solution is simple; the objective truth as found in the word of God. Not the subjective feel-good Ted Talks of the present-day church of Laodicea.

Being a Berean, the place we want to be in as His followers, keeps us focused on what is true and Jesus is the starting point. As we focus on Jesus, we also focus on being obedient to Jesus and to do that, He has given us His Holy Spirit. Paul would later write back to the folks he had just left a few weeks prior to Berea in Philippi and tell them a way to maintain focus.

Philippians 4:8

**“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (NLT)**

### Think On

- True = God’s word. Objective true truth that never changes. Real truth, not imaginary truth.
- Honorable = Again, God’s word, Jesus Christ, worthy, revered, highly respected.
- Right = Our behavior towards our Lord and towards each other. That which is conformity with justice, law and morality. This has us looking forward to Jesus coming to take us to be with Him.
- Pure = God’s word, Jesus Christ. You do not achieve this by wallowing in the pig pen of mass media these days. There is not much pure there.
- Lovely = That which is pleasing, agreeable, friendly. Again, speaking to our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Commendable = that which is worth of praise. Thinking on and praying for reaching and seeing others come to faith in Christ. Seeing brothers and sisters in Christ disciplined and growing strong together in Him.

Our thoughts, in other words, are to be under control of the Holy Spirit and what we are seeing here is what that really looks like.



I constantly pray to have the mind of Christ as I go about doing life.

Satan wants us to have the mind of the flesh, confusion, anger, and none of that leads to peace. But we are to take our minds captive to the Holy Spirit. This is a decision you and I have to make everyday and sometimes multiple times during the day. What kind of thoughts do we entertain?

2 Corinthians 10:5

**"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**," (ESV)**

He desires for us to live in moral excellence. That is not possible outside of being yielded to the Holy Spirit.

The word used for excellence is ἀρετή (arete) and the encouragement is to think on arete. The word means "virtue, value, endowment, quality, ability, merit, valor, courage...that the power of man and of God is not the same...majesty, excellence, of God...marvelous works, praises for the great works, of God." (Montanari 2015)

Finally, we are to think of those things worthy of praise.

Being a Berean means we want to have a life given over to the truth of God's word. To be a truth seeker and active follower of He who is true.

The folks from Thessalonica showed up to spread anger and hatred. They traveled almost two days so they could show up and try to destroy the ministry of the Lord. Satan has not changed his goals either, he still wants the ministry of the church to be made ineffective.

He does that by having his folks spread rumors, innuendo, slander and lies about the work. That is what they showed up and did in Berea, nothing has changed in 2000 years.

The reaction to this from those who love Paul and Silas is immediate.

Acts 17:14–15

**"Then immediately the brothers sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there. Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left."** (NASB 2020)

The team had been very upfront about the persecution they had received in the past. There was a very special hatred directed towards Paul since he was the one causing much of the damage to the cause of the enemy.

The brothers escort him to the sea where they catch a ship to Athens, out of Macedonia.

To accompany someone to a ship was a part of hospitality, but for members of the group to undertake the trip with Paul to ensure his safe arrival shows special concern. (Keener 2014, 2563)

It appears that those Jews from Thessalonica were intent on doing harm to Paul. This was somehow picked up on by the folks in Berea who took it upon themselves to ensure his safe arrival in Greece and in Athens via boat before returning themselves via land. Now Paul is no longer in Macedonia, and he is in Athens, waiting for the rest of the team to come to him.



Silas and Timothy stayed behind for further underground ministry but then were told to join Sha'ul in Athens as quickly as they could. In sum, we see two different groups with two different responses to the Good News. We never know what response we might get as we share Messiah. That's likely why Yeshua said to go to all people and let them decide for themselves (Mt. 28:19–20). (Kasdan 2022, 129)

They had all kinds of plans for the work in Macedonia, and Satan stopped it abruptly there in Berea.

Is Satan still in the business of confusing, stopping or postponing plans? It is indeed in his play book. For us here at Calvary Chapel we have seen this show up as difficulty in finding a place to lease to do church. Distractions taking place just outside the walls of where we do currently gather. Active slander and treachery from so called brothers and sisters. In other words, the exact same tired play book Paul and the team faced.

We are in Hobe Sound because this is where the Lord wants us to be. No different than the nation of Israel first entering the land, they were where God wanted them to be and it was God's responsibility to do that, it was Joshua's responsibility to be faithful.

A brother in Christ had a word of wisdom for me this past week right after we prayed together for the Lord to provide us a place here in Hobe Sound. The word he gave speaks to our desire to follow Christ and to be Bereans here in Hobe Sound. To make disciples in this place He has called us to.

He apologized first saying he has never had the Lord give him scripture in Joshua as a word of wisdom, but then he said this speaks to us and that the Lord is the one who will make a way for us here in Hobe Sound.

Joshua 5:13–6:2

"When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. **Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor."** (ESV)

The Lord is telling us; He has given us Hobe Sound. Our job, just as Joshua and Paul, be faithful to what we have been called to do.

Paul is in Athens, waiting. So, Paul does as he routinely does, wherever he is, he goes to the synagogue and begins to dialogue with those who are there.

Acts 17:16–17

"Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he observed that the city was full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be present." (NASB 2020)

We will stop there and pick up next time in Athens with Paul.

Paul took seriously the calling he was under from the Lord. This is why he kept on going to the same place that occasionally would result in him being harmed. He simply wanted to see others come to the same conclusion he had reached, Jesus Christ is Lord.



#### Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

#### Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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