

Receive the Word like Bereans and live
like Thessalonians!

Acts 17:1-15; 1 Thess 1

Big Idea: The Word of God transforms us; so, we receive the Word with eagerness and let God change us.

To the ends of the earth.

- i. Make changes for the mission (Acts 16:1-5).**
- ii. God gives the increase; the birth of the Philippian church (Acts 16:6-40).**
- iii. Receive the Word like Bereans and live like Thessalonians! (Acts 17:1-15).**
- iv. Defend the Faith (Acts 17:16-34).**

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. ¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

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Teach the Word

- 1. Teach the Word (vv. 1-4).**
- 2. Expect converts and conflict (vv. 5-9).**
- 3. Receive the Word (vv. 10-15).**

1. Teach the Word (vv. 1-4).

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4 Ways to teach like Paul.

- i. Exalt Christ in teaching (v. 3b; cf. Luke 24:25-27).**
- ii. Proclaim truth with boldness (1Th 2:1-2; 2Co 12:7-10).**
- iii. Speak intellectually (vv. 2-3).**
- iv. Live the life you proclaim (1 Thess 2:9-12; Phi 3:12).**

Maturity Matters!

Work towards maturity; help others mature.

Paul rebukes the Corinthians, saying: “But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.” (1Co 3:1-2)

2. Conflict and Conversion (vv. 4-7, 12-13).

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Expect Conflict

- i. Some were jealous (v. 5).**
- ii. Called them troublemakers (v. 6).**
- iii. They condemned Jason for helping (vv. 5, 7).**
- iv. The enemy actively works against the gospel (v. 13).**

Expect God to work through conflict.

i. Conflict is inescapable.

ii. Conflict/difficulty never stops God's mission.

Macedonia was 3rd choice → Lydia → slave girl → Jail(er) → run out of town → Thessalonica → run out of town → Berea → run out of town ...

iii. Sharing Jesus is always worth it; 3 churches started.

3. Receive the Word (vv. 1-4; 10-15).

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Receive the Word like Bereans!

- i. Study with a teachable spirit (v. 11a).**
- ii. Learn eagerly (v. 11b; cf. 1 Th 2:13).**
- iii. Search Diligently (v. 11c).**
- iv. Participate continually (v. 11c; cf. Acts 2:42-47).**

In Thessalonica receiving the Word led to:

- i. Spiritual Power in Bible study (1 Th 1:5).**
- ii. Excitement about God's Word (1 Th 2:13).**
- iii. Following mature believers (1 Th 1:6).**
- iv. Becoming mature believers (1 Th 1:7).**
- v. Impacting the world (1 Th 1:8).**

**How is the Word of God
transforming your life?**