



The Second Missionary Journey Continues Acts 17

Introduction

Leaving his prison cell behind at Philippi, Paul establishes more churches in Macedonia. He eventually makes his way to the very “*center of the intellectual universe*”... Athens, Greece. There he will preach the one true God to superstitious & learned pagans. Their overall response reminds us how an “enlightened culture” reacts to the powerful, yet simple gospel message (cp. 1 Cor. 1:18-29; 2:1-2, 4-5).

Labors In Thessalonica (17:1-9)

- 1) How does the narrative of the journey change again? (v. 1; cp. 16:10, 23)

- 2) Plot the journey from v. 1a. Where does Paul eventually arrive at in v. 1b? What does he do once he is in Thessalonica? (vv. 2-3)

- 3) Were Paul's efforts successful? (v. 4) How was he opposed? (v. 5)

- 4) When they couldn't find Paul, what did the Jews do? (v. 6a) How is this different than the previous oppositions? (cp. 13:45-50; 14:5, 19; 16:19-21; Heb. 10:32-34)

- 5) What was Jews' “charge?” (vv. 6b-7) What resulted from their actions? (vv. 8-9)

Labors In Berea (17:10-15)

- 6) What happened as a result of the uproar in Thessalonica? (v. 10) What about the absence of Timothy's name in v. 10? Consider Phil. 4:10-16 in your answer.

The Two Treatises

Lesson 41

- 7) How does Luke describe the Bereans? (v. 11) Any application(s) for us?
- 8) What success did Paul enjoy in Berea? (v. 12) How was he opposed? (v. 13)
- 9) What decision was made in v. 14a? What about Silas & Timothy? (v. 14b) Where did Paul go next? (v. 15a) What request did he make? (v. 15b)

Labors In Athens (17:16-34)

- 10) While waiting for Silas & Timothy to arrive, what did Paul do? (v. 16) What else did he do? (v. 17a; cp. v. 2) Where else did he teach? (v. 17b)
- 11) Who showed some interest? (v. 18a) *Research question:* find out what you can about the Epicureans & the Stoics. How would you gauge their "interest?" (vv. 18b-21)
- 12) What was the Areopagus? (v. 22a) Outline Paul's sermon from vv. 22b-31. What similarities and/or differences do you see from previous sermons?
- 13) How was Paul's preaching received? (v. 32) What resulted? (v. 34)