

CP— 10/22/23

Acts 17:1-9 — The Gospel in Thessalonica

Sermon Outline

1. Christ Jesus is proclaimed (17:1–3)

- Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures.
 - Dialogue, not a formal sermon
 - Q&A
 - We must be able to answer questions using Scripture.
- Paul explained the Scriptures to them clearly and simply.
 - “Explain” means “to make open or to open up”
- Paul proved to them by the Scriptures.
 - “Prove” means “to give evidence, to set before”
- Paul proved it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and rise from the dead.
 - To fulfill Scripture (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Psalm 16)
 - To fulfill the sacrificial system
 - To purchase salvation
 - To defeat sin and death
- Jesus is the Christ
 - He is the one they had been waiting for.
 - From Genesis to Revelation: all of it is about this Jesus!
- Application
 - Paul preached:
 - Christ-centered
 - Boldly
 - Intelligently
 - He helped people think about the Bible.
 - What it meant, what it implied, and how it points to Jesus.
 - Humbly (1 Thessalonians 2:1–8)

2. Converts are made (17:4)

- Some Jews believed (God opened their eyes!)
- A great many Greeks believed! (Message of Hope)
- Leading women (Luke specifically calls out the women who believed.)
 - God worked through the preaching of the Word
 - Trust in the power of the gospel and proclaim it
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

3. Conflict arises (17:5–9)

- Jealousy never leads to good places.
- Two Accusations:
 - 1. “They turned the world upside down”
 - What an accusation!
 - Jesus had a tendency of turning things on their heads.
 - Thinking and power structures
 - Success, religion, and status quo
 - God was working through them to turn the world right-side up!
 - How can we follow this Jesus and live at home in the world?
 - 2. “Jesus is King”
 - Another king other than Caesar
 - There are great consequences to this statement.
 - Jesus is King, and we will do good to remember that.

Application:

- Spend time in the Word to be able to clearly speak from it. (It doesn’t need to be defended.)
- Trust God to do the work of salvation.
- Expect conflict to arise.

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you from the Scripture and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you?
2. What can we learn about explaining the Scriptures from Paul’s example in Thessalonica?
3. What does it mean to live like Jesus is King?
4. In what ways can the principles and events in this passage be applied to your own life?
5. How can we respond to opposition in a way that reflects Christ’s teachings and character?
6. What practical steps can you take to better share the Gospel and stand firm in your faith?

Close with prayer for strength, wisdom, and courage in sharing the gospel and facing challenges.