

CP— 10/29/23

Acts 17:10–15 - The Gospel in Berea

Sermon Outline

The Centrality of God's Word in Thessalonica and Berea:

- *The Word spoken
- *The Word received

1. The Example of Paul (17:10)

- Marked by courage
 - Courage in conviction (gospel, salvation, Jesus)
 - Courage in calling (God had called Him to do it.)
- Marked by trust in God (Psalm 27:1, Ephesians 6:10)

II. The Example of the Bereans (17:11–12)

- a. They studied the Scriptures openly. (11a)
 - “more noble” = high born
 - More generally used to mean being open, tolerant, and generous
 - The attitude of their heart was open and humble.
 - Readiness of mind
 - They approached God's word with humility.
 - James 1:21
- b. They studied the Scriptures eagerly. (11b)
 - There was a longing for Biblical food (not entertainment or funny stories)
 - Appetite for the Scriptures
 - 1 Peter 2:2–3
- c. They studied the Scriptures carefully. (11c)
 - “examining the Scriptures”
 - Judicial investigation that was marked by integrity and without bias.
 - They were searching to see if Paul's message was true.
 - They were not gullible nor did they lack discernment.
 - Examined what was being taught
 - Test everything by the Word of God!
- d. They studied the Scriptures daily. (11c)
 - More than just on the Sabbath like the Thessalonians
 - Because of the nature of the content with its eternal ramifications, they made it a daily task to meet together and study the Scriptures.

- e. They studied the Scriptures and believed in Jesus (12)
 - “Many of them therefore believed”
 - After examining the Scriptures openly, eagerly, carefully, and daily, they concluded that Paul’s preaching was the truth of Scripture.

3. The example of the Jewish-Thessalonians (17:13)

- The gospel is divisive and not tolerated.
- The enemy’s aim is to try to blow out the fire & silence the message and messenger.
- People like the Jews in Thessalonica are a reminder of the world that we live in.

Application:

1. Do you lack courage?

- What is your conviction?
- What is your calling?

2. How can I know God’s Word well enough to use it effectively in evangelism?

- Confess sin (1 Peter 2;1–2)
- Study diligently (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Practice the truths of Scripture (James 1:22)
 - The goal is not merely increased knowledge but increased holiness and Christlikeness
- Teach it to others (2 Timothy 2:2)

3. Where can I use God’s Word in evangelism?

- Where do you live?
- Where do you work?
- Where do you eat?
- Where do you play?

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you?
2. What does it mean to have courage in conviction and calling? What does it look like to have this courage? Do we live in such a way that courage for Christ is necessary? If not, how can we start?
3. How are the Bereans an example to us in how we receive and study the Word of God? Why do we neglect time in the Word? How can this text help us?
4. Why did the Jews from Thessalonica react the way they did? How are they an example of the world in which we live in?
5. Think through and discuss how you can evangelize the people in your life. Take time to pray for opportunities and the courage to be obedient.