

Acts 17:1-15

The Good News is Bad News to Many

(What Does That Mean for Christians?)

The Setting/Context of Acts 17:1-15

The Second Missionary Journey Acts 15:35-18:22 April 50-September 52AD



After Leaving Philippi, Paul Speaks about Christ in the Synagogue in Thessalonica 17:1-3

Paul's SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for evangelistic ministry was to start by sharing Christ in the Jewish synagogue and then move to the local Gentile population.

Here in Thessalonica, spoke in the synagogue on three consecutive Saturdays/Sabbaths and "reasoned with them from the [OT] Scriptures, 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!"

Wildly Different Reactions to the Good News 17:4-9

Good News about Some Peoples' Reaction to the Good News

Some of them [who heard Paul in the synagogue] were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas. This included not just ethnic Jews but also a "great many" devout Greeks ("God fearers-Gentiles who attended the synagogue] including "not a few" leading women.

Bad News about Other Peoples' Reaction to the Good News

But the [majority of the] Jews were jealous, and started a small riot intending to beat up and/or kill Paul and Silas. Not finding them, they dragged their local host, a man named Jason and some of the other new believers before the City Council.

Their Charge: these men who have turned the world upside down have now come here and one of our own peeps, Jason has enabled them! That's a big problem for us because they are breaking Roman Law by claiming "there is another king, Jesus." And the people present including the members of the City Council were disturbed by all of this. So they had Jason post a bond and temporarily released him/others on their own recognizance.

For Their Own Safety, Paul/Silas Were Sent Down the Road to Berea and Ultimately to Athens 17:10-15

The Jewish folks in Berea received the Word from Paul eagerly and they validated what Paul said about Jesus with the Old Testament Scriptures. The result was a large number of people did believe in Christ, including "not a few" Greek women of high social standing in addition to many local men.

Take This To Heart

The Good News is Bad News to Many

Which Among Other Things Means:

Believers Should Expect Opposition When We Identify with Christ:

So Let's Get Over It and Live/Share the Gospel Anyway, the Right Way (with a Balance of Truth and Love, Tact/Timing)

Opposition Does Not Need To Stop Us, If:

We Remember the Lord Will Guide and Provide Us Such That "People of Peace" Will (in God's Time) Embrace the Good News

And Remember: Evangelism (like a football team scoring a TD after a long drive down the field) **is Often a Process not a Point Act:**

So Even the Littlest Ripples That We Produce Can Be Used by the Lord to Ultimately Produce Fruit We May Never See This Side of Heaven.