

Fair Minded Bereans
Acts 17:1-14

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I. Paul preached about Jesus for three weeks. Acts 17:1-4

Paul began to explain to his countrymen how Jesus was the Messiah and how the Old Testament taught that Jesus had to first come as a _____ servant, in order to pay for our sins.

- The entire Old Testament is written about Jesus. Yes, He will rule and reign as the rightful King of the Universe, but because of His great love for us, He first came to _____ in our place.

Jesus came the first time as the Suffering Servant, but He will _____ someday as the Conquering King.

II. More resistance. Acts 17:5-9

Since Paul and Silas were not found, the mob seized Jason and forcibly dragged him before the city officials, telling them that Jason was harboring _____.

1. ***"These who have turned the world _____ down have come here too." Isaiah 5:20***
2. ***"These are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another _____ — Jesus." Philippians 2:5-11***

III. At Berea. Acts 17:10-12

A ***fair-minded*** person does not rush to judgment, seeks honesty in discussions, and tries to understand different viewpoints, using _____ skills while determining the truth.

1. ***"They received the Word with all _____."***
2. They _____ ***the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.***

IV. Opposition follows. Acts 17:13-14

Sometimes we think we can escape persecution or attacks by leaving a location, but we must remember that the battles we are fighting are _____ and do not originate from this world. ***Ephesians 6:12***

- The enemy has been a murderer from the beginning and will seek to destroy the work of _____ if the Lord doesn't stop him.

V. Practical Application.

Let the truth of scripture lead us to _____.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. ***What is confirmation bias? What should we do to avoid it? Proverbs 12:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Proverbs 18:17, Jeremiah 17:9, 2 Timothy 4:3-4***
2. Read ***Acts 17:1-4***. ***What method did Paul use to share at Thessalonica? What can we learn from Paul about his use of the Scriptures? Ephesians 4:15, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16***
3. ***What Scriptures might he have used to prove that Christ did need to suffer? What was the response to his preaching? Isaiah 53:3-7, Matthew 26:38, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Hebrews 5:8***
4. Read ***Acts 17:5-9***. ***What kind of resistance did Paul encounter? Why were the Jews so envious and angry about the Gospel? How should we react to spiritual resistance? Isaiah 5:20, Philippians 2:5-11, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:8-10, James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Galatians 6:9***
5. Discuss the four points of the **Practical Application**:
 - Like Paul and Silas, we should share the Gospel by opening the Bible to them. Paul ***reasoned*** with the people. ***Isaiah 6:8***
 - To receive the Word with readiness means to have teachable spirits when studying or being taught.
 - We should verify the truth from what we are taught, making a habit of studying the Scriptures daily.
 - We are to conform to scripture and not try to make scripture fit our preconceived ideas or lifestyles.