

Study Guide for Jan. 22nd, '06 Acts 17:1-15. A Tale of Two Cities.

Introduction: If you have lived more than one place, did one of the two places you lived seemed more or less open to the Christian gospel? Describe the difference you observed.

I. This Jesus is the Christ. (Acts 17:1-4)

- A. How did Paul and Silas go about evangelizing Thessalonica?
- B. Read I Thess. 1:4-10. What does this add to the account in Acts?
- C. Who responded to the gospel? (use both Acts and I Thess. 1)
- D. Paul is said to have **reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and Proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead.** What passages of Scripture do you think he used? (Note what is said of Jesus in Luke 24:25-27)
- E. What can we learn from Paul's model of evangelism described here?

II. In spite of strong opposition. (Acts 17:5-9)

- A. Who foments the opposition? How did the opposition grow?
- B. What charges are brought against **Jason and some of the other brothers**?
(Note: Jason's house was probably the location Paul was staying)
- C. Read I Thess. 2:14-16. How does Paul explain the opposition a little later?
- D. Recall Paul's earlier instruction to new churches, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22) What hardships would you expect new Christians and young churches to go through in our day and area?

III. Of more noble character. (Acts 17:10-15)

- A. Why do you think the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea? (Mt. 10:23)
- B. Compare the reception and the response of the Bereans to the Thessalonians.
- C. On what basis did the Bereans determine the truth of Paul's claims?
- D. What do most people use as their standard of truth today? How can we help them see the truthfulness of the Scriptures? What should we not do to reach that goal?
- E. Once again opposition prompts Paul to depart. He is escorted to Athens where he waits alone for Silas and Timothy. What would you say to encourage him or anyone you know who might be discouraged in their service for Christ?