

## LESSON 3

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### PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (PART 3)

#### TO THESSALONICA (17:1–9)

As Paul and Silas left, they traveled west on the Egnatian Way, mingling with the festive crowds traveling in the direction of Rome. Their destination was the capital of Macedonia: Thessalonica.

1. What was Paul's general mission strategy?
2. What did being a "free city" mean for Thessalonica?
3. What were Paul's two aims in preaching to the Jews in 17:2, 3, and how did he meet those aims?
4. Who were the "wicked men from the market place" (17:5)?
5. How did the Jews unwittingly pay the gospel a compliment in 17:6?
6. What were the two specific charges made against Paul and Silas?

#### TO BEREIA: A "NOBLE-MINDED" PEOPLE (17:10–15)

As soon as they arrived in Berea, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. To their pleasant surprise, the synagogue in Berea was filled with honest hearts, not merely among the Gentile God-fearers, but also among the Jews.

7. For what four qualities did Luke commend those who heard Paul and Silas in Berea?

#### TO ATHENS: PAUL'S SPIRIT STIRRED (17:16–21)

For the first time since Paul had been sent out by the church in Antioch, he was alone—alone in one of the most influential cities in the world. Athens was the cultural and philosophical center of the Graeco-Roman world. Paul felt overwhelmed, but this did not keep him from looking for honest hearts.

8. What facts do people cite who say that Paul's work in Athens was his greatest failure?
9. What would Paul have seen as he entered Athens?
10. Who were the Epicureans and Stoics?
11. What does the term translated as "idle babbler" in 17:18 mean?
12. What was the Areopagus, and how did it get its name?
13. Does Paul seem to have been taken to an informal hearing or to a formal trial at the Areopagus?

**IN ATHENS: THE SERMON ON (OR TO)  
THE AREOPAGUS (17:22-34)**

Heaven's plain answers to man's perplexing questions are recorded in Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill. Only ten verses record this sermon, and it can be read in less than two minutes; but it is one of the greatest sermons ever preached by mortal man.

14. What does the phrase translated as "very religious" in 17:22 mean exactly?
15. Why did the people of Athens have an altar "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD"?
16. What three things did Paul tell his audience about God?
17. What three things did Paul then tell them man must do in response to God?
18. Whom did Paul quote in verse 28?
19. What everyday parallel can be made to the idea that God, who used to overlook man's ignorance to some extent, no longer accepts ignorance as an excuse?
20. What three types of responses did Luke list, which are typical of responses to the gospel around the world?