

## Acts 17:10-15

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

### Observation and exposition

1. Read the passage [SLIDES]
2. Observation and exposition
  - a. The time and setting [SLIDES]
    - i. Distances
      1. Approximately 50-60 miles from Thessalonica to Berea
    - ii. Berea
      1. The capital and principal city of the province of Macedonia
      2. Surrendered to the Romans in 168 B.C.
      3. Possibly mentioned in an ancient text dating 432 B.C.
      4. Not on the *Via Egnatia*
        - a. Was Paul heading for Rome? Did Claudius deter his plans?
      5. Modern-day Veria
  - b. Paul, Silas, and Timothy(?) leave Thessalonica and go to Berea **(10)**
  - c. They go to the synagogue and preach the word **(10-11)**
    - i. His message - content - same or similar to what he proclaimed in Thessalonica?
      1. The Christ (Messiah) had to suffer (die) and rise from the dead
      2. Jesus - his life, ministry, death, resurrection
      3. Jesus is the Christ
  - d. The response of the Bereans **(11-12)**
    - i. They were noble (open-minded)
    - ii. They received the word with eagerness
    - iii. They examined the Scriptures daily to see if Paul spoke the truth
      1. John Brown quote
      2. The Scriptures and letter writing in the first century
        - a. Were the Scriptures readily available?

- b. P46 [SLIDES]
- c. Colossians 4:16
- d. Paul may have had copies of Galatians with him
  
- e. Paul's response?
  - i. We're not told, but surely it was positive. Was he insulted that they checked the Scriptures to verify what he said?
  
- f. The Jews from Thessalonica follow and keep harassing Paul and the word **(13)**
  
- g. Paul leaves for Athens **(14-15)**
  
- h. Map out and talk through Paul, Silas, and Timothy's travels in Macedonia and Achaia, using Acts and 1 Thessalonians
  
- i. Read **1 Thessalonians** for Paul's perspective on what happened in Thessalonica, answers to some questions raised earlier, and encouragement.
  - i. Imagine you are the newly formed Thessalonian church?

### **The take-away for us**

### **Resources**

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce