

Acts 17:1-15

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 17:1 More people seem to be concerned with “offending” others than they are that a culture rejecting Jesus as Lord is destined for hell.
- 2) 17:2 For some, it is enough to say “Jesus is Christ;” for others, reason and explanation are incredibly important.
- 3) 17:2 Paul dialogued with those in the synagogue, effectively dealing with the hearers’ questions and doubts.
- 4) 17:2-3 Paul carefully declared, in no uncertain terms, that the death and resurrection of Jesus were in agreement with the Scriptures.
- 5) 17:5 Success in Kingdom work is often accompanied by opposition.
- 6) 17:7 To acknowledge any king other than Caesar was a most serious crime in the Roman Empire.
- 7) 17:9 Amid all their persecutions and difficulties, the Thessalonian church maintained their witness, and Paul was filled with joy when he heard of it (1 Thessalonians 3:6–10).

1) KEYS TO THE SOURCE OF COURAGE-

1st - Courage; results from confessing sin-

O Lord my God, in Thee I have taken refuge; save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me... - My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

Psalm 7 1, 10

* David declares there’s NO un-confessed sin in his life

On that basis, he asked God to deliver him. He knew- attempting to fight a spiritual battle w/holes in his armor is foolish.

2nd - Courage; Trusting & Believing in the Sovereign care of God, depending on His strength in every circumstance - “Lord preserves the faithful” **Psalms 31:23**

8) 17:11 The Bereans tested the truth of the message by examining the Scriptures, rather than by judging it by cultural issues.

9) 17:14-15 The Berean Christian used a diversionary tactic to protect Paul and throw his opponents off their track, making as if to go by sea but then turning toward Athens.

How can a Christian know God’s Word well enough to use it effectively?

1.) A prerequisite for Bible study is confession of sin. I Peter 2:1–2 states that truth succinctly: *“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”*

It is impossible to study the Scriptures profitably with an impure mind.

2.) Bible study must be diligent. Paul commanded his son in the faith, Timothy, to *“be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15). Lazy, haphazard, careless Bible study will not produce a Christian who is “mighty in the Scriptures”.

3.) Believers must be committed to practicing the truths they learn. James charged Christians to *“prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves”* (James 1:22). The ultimate goal of all Bible study is not increased knowledge but increased holiness and Christlikeness.

GREEK WORDS

Peithō (pi'-tho)—primary verb; to convince (inward certainty) :- agree, believe, have confidence, yield

TODAY’S SONGS

"Sky Spills Over" words and music by Michael W. Smith, Christopher Stevens, and Ryan Smith
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"Sing and Shout" words and music by Matt Redman, Willie Weeks, and Jorge Mhondera
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| worshiptogether.com songs

"The Stand" words and music by Joel Houston
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"Heaven Song" words and music by Phil Wickham
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