

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

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## Study 37: Turning the World Right Side Up

**READ** Acts 17:1-15 and 1 Thessalonians and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Having left Luke in Philippi, Paul, Silas and Timothy travel West to the cities of Thessalonica and Berea (see map on back page), where the pattern of gospel proclamation, gospel reception and gospel rejection continue. In both cities Luke records important lessons about how to teach and receive the unchanging gospel. Both require a careful, thoughtful, and considered approach to the Word of God.

**Big idea:** To turn the world right side up we must be men and women who are confident in the unchanging gospel, aware of the constancy of opposition, and dedicated to the solidarity of believers.

### Questions:

1. When Paul arrived at Thessalonica, generally speaking, what were the two primary activities he carried out? See Acts 17:2-3; 1 Thess 2:9; 2 Thess 3:7-9.
  
2. A. From vv. 2-4 what words are used to help us understand the process Paul followed to make the message clear to his audience? Explain each one.  
  
B. What does Paul's example teach us about how we might best explain Jesus to others? See also 2 Cor 5:11; Eph 4:15; 1 Pet 3:15.
  
3. What was the message Paul sought to persuade His audience to receive and why (v. 3)? Consider the Jews' preconceived ideas of what Messiah was.

4. Read 1 Thess 1. What strikes you about the Thessalonians' heart for the Word?
  
5. A. How did the Bereans study Scripture? (v. 11)  
  
B. What encourages and challenges you most about the Bereans' approach to Scripture? What might happen if churches developed the same habit?
  
6. What difficulties did Paul face and what do you learn from this (vv. 5-7, 13)?
  
7. In what way did the new believers in both cities show that gospel advance is not a one-man job (vv. 8-10, 14-15)?
  
8. A. As a reminder, read Acts 1:1, 8; 28:31; what is the story of Acts all about? How does this passage fit into the big theme of Acts?  
  
B. From the theme and study, what does total commitment to Christ and the gospel look like in a person who may not be a gifted evangelist or missionary?  
  
C. What is God challenging you to do from our study?

**STOP AND PRAY:**

*Adore:* the Lord who rules over every opposition that would seek to attack His people

*Thank:* God for other brothers and sisters who support you in your life and ministry

*Pray:* for those who teach in your congregation and for those who hear the Scriptures

