

# Hunger for Truth

Acts 17:1-13

## **Acts 17:1-13**

**Now ... they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.**

## **Acts 17:1-13, cont.**

**But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd... And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."**

## **Acts 17:1-13, cont.**

**And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.**

# The heart prepared by God...

- **“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one” (Romans 3:10-12).**
- **God must implant an inner hunger for His truth**
- **“When He (the Spirit) comes, He will convict the world sin, righteousness, and judgment” (John 16:8-11).**
- **Some resist God’s preparation and some welcome it.**

# When the gospel is preached...

- Look for the “son of peace” (Luke 10:6) – the person(s) prepared by God to receive the Gospel.
- Thessalonica: Warm church in a cold place
- Berea: Warm church in a warm place
- Laodicea: Cold church in a cold place
- Is it easy where you live to be a follower of Jesus?

# 1. Thessalonica: warm church, cold city

- Paul's custom to teach in synagogue
- Initial response among many, but then angry rejection and persecution
- "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also."
- Or right side up?
- John Wesley asked young evangelists, "Did anybody get saved? Did anybody get mad?"

# **Vibrant faith in a cold spiritual climate:**

**“Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction... for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit... your faith in God has gone forth everywhere... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thes 1:2-10).**



## **2. Berea: warm church, warm city**

- Paul did his usual thing - preached that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah in the synagogue**
- “Well-born”: Jews who were “generous, liberal, and noble in their feelings; more disposed to inquire candidly into the truth of the doctrines” (Albert Barnes).**
- Many “Greek” men came to faith – only place in Acts.**
- An honest, open discussion of the biblical gospel, and not an effort to manipulate people to believe.**

# The Influence of Men for Christ: 1994 Swiss Study

- When neither mother nor father are regular in church only 3% of children continue in church as adults.
- When mother and father are regular in church, 33% of the children will continue regularly in church.
- When only the mother attends, it is 3%.
- But when only the father attends, it is 38%.
- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/fathers-key-to-their-childrens-faith.html>

# Music and Preaching

- **It is better to have good music than bad music, but God looks not at how good the music is but whether people are worshiping in their hearts.**
- **It is better to have good preaching than bad preaching, but God looks not at how good the preaching is, but whether the word is believed on and obeyed by the people.**

### **3. Laodicea: cold church, warm city**

- **Revelation 3:14-22, proud, uncaring, dead church**
- **Christ was shut out of the church. He was on the outside knocking to come in.**
- **“If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with me.”**
- **All it takes is for one person to hear His voice and open up his own heart for Christ to come in.**