

Bereans Bible Institute

Module VII – The Apostolic Mission

Lesson 24 – The Ministry of the 12th Apostle – Paul (Part 11)

I. Involvement of Luke (author of Acts) in the events reported by him.

- A. Acts 16:8-13 Change from third person plural (they) to first person plural (we) shows that Luke joined Paul's team in Troas.
- B. Acts 17:1 – 20:3 Change back to third person (they) shows that Luke stayed behind at Philippi.
- C. Acts 20:4-6 Change back to first person (we) shows that Luke rejoined the team when Paul's team came back through Philippi.
- D. Conclusion: Luke remained in Philippi the entire time between Acts 17:1 – 20:6
- E. Paul's praise of the Philippians concerning his financial support (Phil. 4:14-19) which was partly the fruit of Luke's ministry there.

II. Paul at Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

- A. Paul at the synagogue was "*explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer*" prior to establishing His Kingdom.
 - 1. Jesus had to explain to His disciples why He had to first suffer (Luke 24:25-27; 44-47).
 - a. Psalm 22; Isaiah 53, etc.
- B. Jews, Proselytes, and Greeks believed (new Christian congregation established)
- C. Envious Jews created a riot, forcing Paul to flee the city.
 - 1. The charge against Paul was that he preached a "King" other than Caesar (same charge brought against Jesus Himself)
 - 2. "the brethren" who sent Paul and Silas away were the new Christians.

III. Paul at Berea (Acts 17:10-14)

- A. Paul receives a warm welcome at the synagogue, where the Jews were "fair minded" (truth seekers).
- B. A variety of people became Christians
- C. The envious Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea to stir up a riot there.
- D. "the brethren" sent Paul away alone, Timothy and Silas remain at Berea.

IV. Paul at Athens (Acts 17:15-34)

- A. Paul's reaction to the 'idolatry' of Athens.
 - 1. Paul 'reasoned' (debated) in the synagogue with the Jews
 - 2. Paul 'reasoned' in the marketplace with the pagans.
 - a. Greek philosophical groups began to debate with Paul
 - b. The central component of Paul's message was the resurrection of the body.
 - c. Opposition to Plato's philosophy, which was that the body was a 'prison' for an immaterial immortal 'soul' (ghost).
 - 1. In Platonism, escaping the physical body and realm to ascend to heaven as pure spirit was the goal.
 - 2. Reincarnation was a central feature of Platonism.
 - 3. "Death" was good, release from the physical realm
 - 4. "Judgment" (and reward or punishment) occurs at death.
 - d. Paul's message was that resurrection of the body was when judgment occurs.
 - e. Paul implicitly denied Plato's "immortality of the soul" by teaching the "resurrection."
 - 3. Paul proclaimed "the Unknown God" who originated everything (the Greeks believed He was the source of all the other 'gods' who were descended from Him).
 - 4. Paul cites the philosopher, Aratus, in his book Phenomena.
 - 5. There is a "DAY" of judgment common to all mankind (not an individual judgment of a ghost at death). Christ who was resurrected will be the standard of judgment.