

A Church That STUDIES

Acts 17:1-15

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How does Paul help the people see Jesus? Consider each of the following...

- The Word of God reveals the plan of God

- The Word of God reveals the person of Jesus

Read Luke 24:27 and John 5:39 Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus is the central figure in the Bible?

- The word of God reveals the proclamation we are to share with the world

What evidence do you see of the transforming power of God's Word in the lives Paul touches in Thessalonica and Berea?

A Church That STUDIES (With Notes)

Acts 17:1-15

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How does Paul help the people see Jesus? Consider each of the following...

As is his custom, Paul enters both Thessalonica and Berea and finds a Jewish synagogue. It is important to see that Paul initially looks for people who have a desire to walk with the Lord. He seeks out people who are already familiar with the words of God. As Paul teaches in the synagogue, he opens the Scriptures and points to Jesus. He helps them see Jesus, and in doing so demonstrates the following three important truths about God's Word:

- The Word of God reveals the plan of God

In the written Word, God shows us His nature and character, calls us into relationship with Himself, and reveals both the sin that blocks our path and the plan that leads us to the cross of Christ. The Word holds up the fullness of God's holiness and provides us with an authoritative standard that teaches us how to walk with God in this world.

- The Word of God reveals the person of Jesus

Paul uses the Scriptures we know as the Old Testament to explain and prove that Jesus is the Christ and to reveal the redemptive work of Jesus on our behalf. Every word of Scripture ultimately points to Jesus.

Read Luke 24:27 and John 5:39 Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus is the central figure in the Bible?

Personal reflection...

- The word of God reveals the proclamation we are to share with the world

As Paul teaches about the gospel, he grounds his message in Scripture. He uses God's own words to point the people to the cross. The bondage of sin, the power of grace, the sacrificial love of a Savior find their fullest expression in the language of Scripture. The Word of God provides us with the same solid foundation today. We must cement everything we say in the firm foundation of God's Word.

What evidence do you see of the transforming power of God's Word in the lives Paul touches in Thessalonica and Berea?

As Paul points people to Christ, the transforming power of God's Word becomes evident. Some are drawn to the Redeemer and accept His invitation to be His. Many receive the Word with joy and eagerness. Others resist the message of grace and even begin to actively work against the spread of the gospel. There are those who open their homes to Paul and his friends and in

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doing so put themselves in danger. Others commit to traveling with Paul until he reaches a place of safety.

Act 17:6 reveals the full impact of the message of the cross- "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also..." Even those who opposed the Word of God recognized the power of its message. It has the power to turn the world "upside down." Transformation is at the heart of God's Word. It is his desire and plan for us to be changed when we spend time studying His Word.