

**STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS**  
**IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**Lesson 45 – In Thessalonica - [Acts 17:1-9](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

***The Uproar in Thessalonica***

**1**After they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they arrived at Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

2-3So as usual, Paul went to their meetings, and on three Sabbath days he spoke to them. He explained and showed them from the Scriptures that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead. “This Jesus whom I’m telling you about is the Messiah!” he said.

<sup>4</sup>Some of the Jews were convinced, along with a great number of the God-fearing Greeks, including quite a number of the leading women. They all joined Paul and Silas.

<sup>5</sup>But the Jewish leaders who refused to believe were jealous, and got some of the worthless deadbeats who hung around the marketplace to form a mob and start a riot. Then they whipped the whole city into an uproar and attacked the home of Jason, looking for Paul and Silas. They tried to bring them out of the house so the people could deal with them.

<sup>6</sup>But when they couldn’t find them, they dragged Jason and several other followers of the Lord before the city authorities and shouted, “Those who have turned the world upside down have now come here!

<sup>7</sup>“They all defy Caesar, saying there’s another king, called Jesus. Jason has even lodged them in his house!”

<sup>8</sup>The crowd and the city officials were extremely stirred up when they heard these charges.

<sup>9</sup>But after making Jason and the other followers post bail, they released them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 45 – In Thessalonica - [Acts 17:1-9](#)**

678. Why did Paul and his companions stop at Thessalonica? ([17:1](#))

679. What did Paul and his companions do in Thessalonica? ([17:1-3](#))

680. What was Paul's mission in the synagogue? ([17:2-3](#))
681. What resulted from Paul's teaching? ([17:4](#))
682. Why were some Jews jealous? ([17:5](#))
683. How did the Jews act against Paul and Silas? Why? ([17:5](#))
684. How did the plan of the Jews misfire? ([17:6](#))
685. What did the crowd do to Jason and some other Christians? ([17:6-7](#))
686. What were the accusations against the Christians? ([17:6-7](#))
687. How was Jason implicated in the charges? ([17:7](#))
688. How did the crowd and city officials react to the accusations? ([17:8](#))
689. Why were the Christians required to post bond? ([17:9](#))
690. What did the city officials do with the believers? ([17:9](#))

#### **Lesson 46 - In Berea - [Acts 17:10-15](#)**

##### ***Paul and Silas in Berea***

<sup>10</sup>As soon as it was night, the Lord's followers sent both Paul and Silas away to Berea, where they went into the Jewish synagogue upon arrival.

<sup>11</sup>The people in Berea were more noble and fair-minded than those in Thessalonica. They eagerly listened to the message, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out if these things were really true.

<sup>12</sup>As a result, many became believers. This was also true of quite a number of prominent women among the Greeks, and Greek men as well.

<sup>13</sup>But when the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica learned that Paul was now preaching God's message in Berea, they came there too, exciting the masses.

<sup>14</sup>Immediately the Lord's followers sent Paul away, pretending to take him to the coast. But both Silas and Timothy remained there.

<sup>15</sup>Those escorting Paul brought him down to Athens. And as they left him, he instructed them to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 46 - In Berea - [Acts 17:10-15](#)

691. When did Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica? ([17:10](#))
692. Why did Paul and Silas leave at night? ([17:10](#))
693. What town did the missionaries visit? ([17:10](#))
694. On arriving in Berea, where did Paul and Silas go? ([17:10](#))
695. How were the Bereans different from the Thessalonians? ([17:11](#))
696. How did the Bereans interact with Paul's message? ([17:11](#))
697. How did the people respond to the gospel? ([17:12](#))
698. Who responded to the gospel? ([17:12](#))
699. What did the Jewish unbelievers from Thessalonica do? ([17:13](#))
700. Why did Paul leave Berea? ([17:14](#))
701. Why did Silas and Timothy remain in Berea? ([17:14](#))
702. Who went with Paul to Athens? ([17:15](#))
703. What instructions did Paul leave for Silas and Timothy? ([17:15](#))

### Lesson 47 - In Athens - [Acts 17:16-34](#)

#### *Paul in Athens*

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he became greatly upset and concerned when he saw all the idols throughout the city.

<sup>17</sup>So he had earnest discussions in the synagogue with both Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and also every day in the marketplace with everyone he met.

<sup>18</sup>Then he came in contact with some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. Some of them questioned, "What's this babbler trying to tell us?" Others said, "He seems to be promoting some foreign gods," because he was telling them the Great News about Jesus, and that someday everyone would rise back to life again.

19 So they took him by the arm and brought him before the Areopagus Council on Mars Hill, saying, “Let’s hear now what you have to say about this new teaching you’re promoting.

20 “Because you’re bringing some strange things to our attention. We’d like to know what it’s all about.”

21 (It should be explained here that all the Athenians and visiting foreigners who gathered there whiled away their time just telling about or listening to others tell about the latest new idea.)

22 So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious in all respects.

23 “Because as I was walking about and observing your various objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

#### TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

Well, I’m here to tell you about this One of whom you are ignorant, but still worship.

24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it! And since He is Lord of Heaven and earth, He doesn’t live in temples made by human hands.

25 “He doesn’t need the helping hand of any man. Since He’s the One who gives life and breath and everything else to all of us, He doesn’t need anything.

26 “Beginning with one man, He made the people in every nation, and caused them to inhabit every part of the earth. It is He who determines when each nation will rise and when it will fall, and what its boundaries will be.

27 “God’s purpose in all His dealings with mankind is to cause them to look for Him—hoping they will reach out for Him and find Him, though He isn’t far from any of us.

28 “He is everything to us. The fact that we’re alive and kept alive, that we have the ability to move, and the greater fact that we exist at all—all of this is due to Him. What some of your own poets have said is true: ‘We are certainly His offspring!’

29 “Since we are the children of God, we certainly shouldn’t think that the Divine One can be portrayed for us as being like some sculptured gold, silver, or stone idol, shaped by the skillful abilities of man.

30 “True, in the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands that everyone everywhere turn from their evil ways and turn to Him.

31 “In fact, He has assigned a certain Day when the Man He has chosen will in an honest and right way judge every person on earth! He gave proof to everyone that this will indeed happen, when He raised this Man from among the dead.”

32When they heard about the resurrection of someone who had been dead, some of them began to jeer at him, while others said, “We’d like to hear more about that sometime.”

33So Paul then left them.

34But some of the people believed, and they went with him. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus Council, and a woman named Damaris, and several others.

## DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

### Lesson 47 - In Athens - [Acts 17:16-34](#)

704. What distressed Paul about Athens? ([17:16](#))
705. Where did Paul present his message to the diverse listeners? ([17:17](#))
706. How did the philosophers react to Paul’s ideas? ([17:18](#))
707. Why did the Council of the Areopagus want to hear what Paul had to say? ([17:19-21](#))
708. How did Paul address the intellectual pagans? ([17:22-23](#))
709. Why did the Athenians have an altar dedicated to an "unknown god"? ([17:23](#))
710. How did Paul use his knowledge of the Athenians’ "unknown god" to present the true God? ([17:23](#))
711. How did Paul describe God to his hearers? ([17:24-25](#))
712. Why was Paul’s lesson in biblical history a blow to Athenian pride? ([17:26](#))
713. Why did God reveal Himself in creation and history? ([17:27-28](#))
714. How did Paul use Greek poetry to tell others about Christ? ([17:28](#))
715. How did Paul prove that God was not an idol? ([17:29](#))
716. What were Paul’s concluding remarks? ([17:30-31](#))
717. How did the Greeks respond to Paul? ([17:32-34](#))
718. Who among Paul’s hearers became believers? ([17:34](#))