



The Power of God's Word

Acts 17:1-15 | Ryan Pfeiffer | August 9, 2026

INTRO. Last week we saw how Paul/ Silas confronted darkness w/ Praise!

We gather ea/ wk to Praise God as an offering AND to overcome darkness

In Acts 17 we watch Paul/ co bring the Word of God to Thessalonica/ Berea...

The emphasis is not on miracles but on the power of God's Word to renew us!

We're going to see some people receive God's word while others resist it...

(Q) How do you respond when God's word confronts you? Challenges you?

FOCUS. 1) Why do we call the Bible God's Word 2) What can cause us to be resistant to it 3) How can we be receptive to its power.

GOD'S WORD. When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

Paul reasoned from the Scriptures... explaining, proving... Jesus. Suffer... rise

- "Scriptures" in Greek is graphōn... something written, sacred writings.

What Scriptures? The Hebrew Bible... which he argues foresaw Jesus...

1. Isaiah 53:12 Suffer. Psalm 16:10 Rise. Psalm 22 Worldwide salvation.

Thru his teaching God's Word... faith is awakened in people's hearts. WHY?

- 1 Thess 2:13 You received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God...

They understood that Paul himself was speaking God's Word to them.

And that's what we hold the Bible to be... 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

God-breathed —> God's Spirit inspired the writers. Jesus affirmed this.

- "When the Bible speaks, God speaks." —B.B. Warfield.

Because the Bible is God's Word there is power in it...

1. Gives life. Jn 6:63 The words I have spoken to you... are full of the Spirit and life.
2. Brings faith. Ro 10:17 faith comes from hearing... the word about Christ.
3. Sets us free. John 8:32 hold to my teaching... the truth will set you free.

ILLUS. BILLY GRAHAM. Summer of 1949, friend Chuck Templeton. Forest Home.

WHY DO WE RESIST? 5 But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called

Jesus.” 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

If God’s Word has so much power then why doesn’t it always inspire faith?

Vs 5 other Jews were Jealous... meaning- resented Paul’s influence... WHY?

2 Tim 3:16. God’s Word teaches/ inspires, BUT... also rebukes, corrects...

It’s when God’s word rebukes us/ corrects us... we can be offended...

If we aren’t careful we only accept what we already believe...

- God’s Word was correcting their view of the Messiah.
- The way they had interpreted scripture (Isa 53)
- They way they felt comfortable living... circumcision thing...

They rally men to them preying on their political sensitivities...

1. V7 They are defying Caesar’s decrees... another king called Jesus!

They become defensive, reactive, protective, offended, hostile...

Are there topics where the Bible offends you... prefer to avoid...

- Sexuality, money, hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, demons... OT! haha.
- How it intersects life: politics, women in leadership, justice, sanctity of life?

ILLUS. Why do you talk about Justice? Progressive Left agenda!

Of course God’s Word is perfect but I am not... I can be unclear... etc...

And this doesn’t mean we are suppose to turn our brains off... gullible...

WHAT IS A RECEPTIVE POSTURE? 10 As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

The Bereans are famous for their response to the challenge of God’s Word.

They are humble, hungry, and thoughtful— their faith grows.

They “received” the message w/ eagerness & examined Scriptures every day!

They are open but not Gullible... receptive not reactive...

Having questions & doubts isn’t close minded—> unwilling to investigate!

ILLUS. A while back... teaching on the Holy Spirit... took the time to ask...

How can we be like the Bereans?

- Don’t depend only on the teaching of others. Church, Youtube, TikTok!
- Become a daily student of the Bible... v 11 they examined... every day...
- Pay attention to the topics that make you uncomfortable... lean in...
- “Get curious not furious.” —Tom Allen.
- Be humble and thoughtful. God’s word is perfect nor our interpretations!
- Examine key topics in dialogue with others.

- “Chew the meat and spit the bones out.” Don’t be all-or-nothing.

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM.

How can we know we are reading the Bible correctly?

Rupertus Meldenius— “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” (17th Century Lutheran... warring protestant factions...)

If our reading of the Bible is growing:

- Our love for God and His holiness...
- And our love, compassion, patience toward others... we’re on the rt track!

Is it producing a sweet spirit in us?

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal 5:6.

Next Steps for Healing & Recovery:

- > NCCC Counseling Center
- > Skills Classes
- > Prayer Room - Mondays 1-3pm
- > Recovery Resources
- > Grief Resources