

061018 Growth Group Study



*Roman Street inside the church of Hagios Demetrius,
patron saint of Thessaloniki*

1. Discussion around most recent sermon

- a. **Date:** 06/10/18
- b. **Series:** Acts: Life Unleashed
- c. **Title:** Bonds of Love Born Out of Affliction
- d. **Text:** Acts 17:1-15
- e. **Preacher:** Brian Morgan

f. **Scripture Reading: 1 Thess 1:2-7 (ESV)**

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

g. **Sermon Text with Outline: Acts 17:1-15 (ESV)**

I. Ministry in Thessalonica (1-9)

A. Preaching in a Synagogue (1-3)

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 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."

B. The Twofold Response to the Gospel (4-9)

4 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. 5 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. 6 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, 7 and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. 9 And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

II. Ministry in Berea (10-15)

A. An Honorable Reception (10-12)

10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. 11 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. 12 Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

B. Riot and Escape (13-15)

13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. 14 Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. 15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

h. Specific discussion questions from sermon

1. **Intro:** If someone were to ask you, what conditions are conducive to making faithful disciples, how would you answer? How does your answer align with your personal story?
2. **1-3: Reasoning from The Scriptures:** Paul reasoned from the scriptures with the Jews (v 2). Brian speculated on some key OT texts that Paul may have used. If you were to “reason from the scriptures”, what texts would you use? Which texts still bring “wonder” to you?
3. **1-3: Reasoning from the Scriptures:** As he is reasoning, he uses mainly verbs connected to the mind. Why do you think this is so? Is there anything to feelings? Do feelings/emotions play into our salvation at all? (Hint: Some ancient writers would say there are three main ‘assurances’ of our salvation: (1) Belief (cognizant) – do you believe the Scriptures? (2) Affections (emotions) – is your heart stirred to love God/love others? (3) Spirit – is there evidence of the Spirit in your life?)
4. **4-9: Some are Persuaded:** Some are persuaded to follow Jesus. Share your story of how you were “persuaded” to follow Jesus.

5. **10-12: Faithful Servants:** Brian noted how the people who went with Paul and Silas in the boat were “faithful servants”. Name specific ways you can be a faithful servant this week, at work, at home, on the road, etc.
6. **Conclusion: Suffering:** Brian noted that suffering was a crucible that purifies our love. Where in your life has suffering happened, but God purified your love though it?

i. Reference Texts / Books

1. 3 John 1:4
2. 1 Thess 5:23-24 (Benediction)
3. Romans 8:35-39