

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"God's Work in Berea and Athens"

Acts 17:10-21

Acts 17:10-15 Success in Berea

[10] Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. [11] These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. [12] Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. [13] But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. [14] Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. [15] So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Acts 17:16-21 Mission Continues in Athens

[16] Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. [17] Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. [18] Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. [19] And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? [20] For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." [21] For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Jews in Berea differ from the Jews in Thessalonica?
2. How did the Jews in Berea respond to Paul's teaching?
3. In attending church services, have you "*received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily*"? Explain how this approach affects how much you learn and growth?
4. What reasons Paul may have departed, yet Silas and Timothy remained for a while, then departed?
5. In Athens, Paul's "*spirit was provoked within him*". What does this mean and has it ever happened to you? If so, how did you respond?
6. Read vv.21, it says, "*there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.*" Give examples of how this still happen in our society today? How can this detrimental to Christians? As a Christian what are ways you can protect yourself from this?