LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Dec 2017 ................................ Acts 13 ............................... The Gospel Message
2) 10 Dec .............................................. Acts 14 .................. Misguided Worship
3) 17 Dec .............................................. Acts 15:1-31 .......... Available to ALL
4) 24 Dec .............................................. Luke 2 .................................. The Promised One
6) 07 Jan 2018 ................................. Acts 16 ......................... A changed Family
7) 14 Jan .............................................. Acts 17 ............................... The Unknown Known
8) 21 Jan .............................................. Ps 139 .......................... Sanctity of Life – Value ALL
9) 28 Jan .............................................. Acts 18-19 ............... Incomplete Picture
10) 04 Feb ............................................. Acts 20-21 .............. Delivered
11) 11 Feb .............................................. Acts 22-25 .............. The Testimony
12) 18 Feb .............................................. Acts 26-27 .............. Answering Critics
13) 25 Feb .............................................. Acts 28 ............................ Always on Mission

INTRODUCTION

- Paul meets the more noble Bereans who examined the Scriptures daily to see if Paul was speaking the truth about God.
- What minimal facts do we need to make a sound decision?
  - Do we need 100% of the facts? □ Yes □ No □ 50%? □ 10%?
- Remember. Faith has an element of doubt, otherwise it would be called Fact and not Faith! Fortunately, our faith is not a blind faith.

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<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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| Acts 17:1-4 | The Christian Faith is Based on Facts
| v2. For 3 Sabbaths, Paul "reasoned" with them. |
| v3. Paul also "gave evidence" and mapped the info to the Scriptures, which was the foundation of their faith |
| v4. The Results. "Some" of the Jews believed, but so did "many" Greeks and many "leading women" |
| v5. Paul broke through the race and gender barriers |

Note: We Do Not Have a Blind Faith

- The Christian faith is not a blind faith. Unlike every other religion in the world, including atheism, our faith is based on substance – reliable historical and scientific evidence.

Historical Fact #1. We have more historical evidence that Jesus lived (10 sources) than we do of Jesus’ contemporary, Tiberius Caesar (only 4 historical sources)

Scientific Fact #1. Mathematical probability of just 10 out of 365 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled and referring to anyone else other than Jesus Christ is nil

Scientific Fact #2. Cosmological and teleological arguments and evidence for a logical design of the universe and for life on earth give credence to God’s existence (Skeptic: “I don’t have Enough Faith to be an Atheist”, Geisler & Turek)

Mob #1

- How do you form a mob? The Jews, in this case, found some “wicked men” to stir things up. That’s all it takes in many cases.....Fake News + Wicked Intent or ‘Gossip’ + Naive people who don’t check the facts .........Pr 14:15
- How do you disburse a Mob before harm is done? A few lone voices can sometimes win .........Jes 28:16-17; Acts 19:35-41

17:10-12 The More Noble Bereans

- v10. A few good men knew what to do to keep Paul safe, if Paul would listen – and he did |
- Good discernment knows when to stay & fight, when to flee, and when to move forward .........Mat 10:23; 1Cor 2:15

ConCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Do we have all the facts to answer every curious question there is about the afterlife? No, we do not. If we had all the facts, then faith would not be required.
- Remember. One day Faith and Hope will be done away with because we will KNOW all the Facts, and Hope will be realized.
- Our faith is not a blind faith, but a faith based on sufficient historical facts to allow us to make a sound decision for God.

Come on guys, if you want to do some good, let’s be like Daniel and support the leaders God has given us – not persecute ‘em.

“I, Daniel, arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.” Daniel 11:1

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