

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 Christmas – The Promised One
- 5) 31 Dec Acts 15:32-41 | 16:1-5 Strengthened
- 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? 80%? 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.

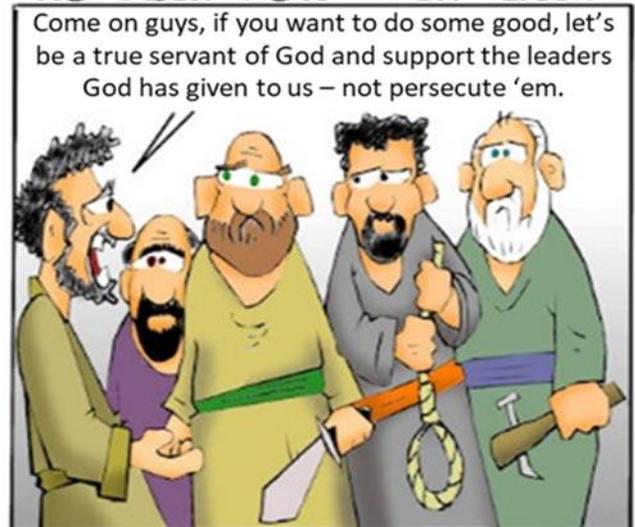
Passage	Comments
Acts 17:1-4	<p>The Christian Faith is Based on Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. For 3 Sabbaths, Paul “reasoned” with them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How do we reason with people? <input type="checkbox"/> We present facts and figures? <input type="checkbox"/> We present info off the Internet? <input type="checkbox"/> We argue our case? <input type="checkbox"/> We listen carefully? <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways to reason with people? ♦ Notice what Paul did: Again, he spent time, and they were interested in what he had to say over 3 days, so he was being kind, not obnoxious; gentle, not I’m right, you’re wrong; his speech was salty (made ‘em thirsty to hear more) and sweet Pr 16:21; Col 4:6 ♦ Remember. People don’t care what you know till they know that you care! Prov 16:24 • v3. Paul also “gave evidence” and mapped the info to the Scriptures, which was the foundation of their faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Question. When people ask us about how old the earth is, or if there are space aliens, or if good works will get us to Heaven, are we prepared to point to Scripture to address their concerns? We should be! • v4. The Results. “Some” of the Jews believed, but so did “many” Greeks and many “leading women” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul broke through the race and gender barriers
Note: We Do Not Have a Blind Faith	<p>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.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 (Src: “I don’t have Enough Faith to be an Atheist”, Geisler & Turek)</p>
17:5-9	<p>Mob #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 + Naïve 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 win Jer 26:16-17; Acts 19:35-41
17:10-12	<p>The More Noble Bereans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. A few good men knew what to do to keep Paul safe, if Paul would listen – and he did <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Good discernment knows when to stay & fight, when to flee, and when to move forward.....Mat 10:23; 1Cor 2:15

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. Notice the Berean way → They were eager to hear God’s word + They Proved All Things + They made a decision after considering the facts they had <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Again, Paul broke through the race, gender, & class barriers by saving “prominent” Greek men & women; and he did this by gently & intelligently sharing his faith
17:13-15	<p>Mob #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13. It is sad that so-called church people “agitated & stirred up the crowds” against God’s anointed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does this still happen today? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don’t Know ♦ Certain brethren sent Paul away. Again some wise men knew when it was appropriate to flee and not stay & fight ♦ But notice that Silas & Timothy stayed behind, possibly to complete some unfinished work (e.g., teach the whole counsel of God and select elders)
17:16-22	<p>Be Ready to be Used by God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul ended up in a safe environment, but he was on a constant lookout for witnessing opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What do we look for or wait for before we witness? <input type="checkbox"/> Joyless or sad-looking people? <input type="checkbox"/> Course Chatter? <input type="checkbox"/> Someone with a pulse? <input type="checkbox"/> Other events _____ ?
17:23-31	<p>Know Your Audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul always began where his audience was. If they knew God (such as Jews) he would begin with Moses or Abraham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But with Gentiles who had no biblical indoctrination, he always began at Genesis 1 – “God who made the world” ♦ How do we open up our discussions? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we begin at the Cross? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we begin in Genesis? Or <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation?
17:32-34	<p>Some Will Like What You Say, Others Will Not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the end, people believe what they want to believe, BUT witnessing is not an option for us, it is a command • We must GO and make disciples Matthew 28:19-20 AND we must teach the whole counsel of God, not just half of it, or just John 3:16. AND provide evidence for our faith!

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

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



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