

Basics of Faithful Bible Teaching

Acts 17:1-15

What starts the riot?

What has “turned the world upside down”?

A. Careful



Acts 17:2 – ‘as was his custom... from the Scriptures’

We do not just assert and exhort (“Love one another”, “Have faith”) we argue *from the text*

Reasoning, explaining, proving

Showing from the text why it means what it means

Not just “This means this because I say”

“This means this **because**”

So → v11 - the Bereans can check it out – ‘examining the Scriptures’

If it is just exhortation I can’t check it but with expository preaching I can check it

This is the best guard against false teaching

The checking by the Bereans shows that

a) the Bible is the authority not Paul - and the aim of the preacher is to become invisible, to point away from himself to the Word

b) what Paul is saying is what the Scriptures are saying – They are looking to see has he twisted it or has he respected the context?

- **We let the Bible speak for itself** - most often – work through **one passage** – have confidence that there is plenty there! Then it is not *my* thought with ten verses to back it up but the passage speaking.
- **Preach the message given by the text** – not “What is my message this week? Lord give me a message.” Look at the text! Find the Big Idea / Big Point and then the main point of the text is the main point of my talk.
- So → v13 – Paul is not preaching the Word of Paul but the Word of God.

B. Christ-centred

What is the content (v3)?

Well in a word: Jesus – “this Jesus whom I proclaim to you” (v3).

In particular, Paul argues two big things:

a) ‘it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise’ (v3a)

b) ‘this Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ’ (v3b)

It’s very similar to Peter in Acts 2 – *proclaiming* the death and resurrection of Christ,

explaining how the whole Old Testament is all about a suffering and rising Messiah and

then *tying* these two things together: this Jesus who has just been crucified was in fact the long-awaited Christ.

Not ‘seven steps to improve your life’ but Christ.

Not always what people will want but always what people need.



Cf. Colossians

Looking at 1:21-23:

- The Gospel
- We don't move on from the gospel

Looking at 1:27-2:3

- What exactly is the content of Paul's preaching? And what is his aim?

C. Cutting

Acts 17:2-4

We do not just explain we *argue* and seek to *persuade* – it is not a lecture but a powerful combination of logic/truth/depth AND passion/purpose/pointedness

- Paul is preaching with an aim, for an effect, to bring people to knowledge of the truth, to see Christ as who he is

Reading 1 Thessalonians (1 Thess. 5:28)

- Why is Paul writing this?
- What is his tone? How does it make you feel?

Group Study: 1 Thessalonians 1

- What was the content of Paul's preaching? (1:5, 9-10)
- How did the Thessalonians receive this preaching? (1:3,6-10)
- What did that prove? (1:4)
- So, in light of the whole passage, what might "Power... Spirit... Conviction" (1:5) mean?

Also – compare with Acts 17 -

Back in Acts 17 – what were they doing? No miracles reported, no-one falling over, no fire and wind, just the apparently weak, unimpressive act of pointing to Christ in the Scriptures – *that* is the where the power is, where the Holy Spirit is working, where God is speaking to men.



And look at the aim of preaching:

- Faith → work
- Love → labour
- Hope → steadfastness