

The Book of Acts

Unleashing of the Gospel (Chapters 17-20)

C. The Second Missionary Journey (15:41-18:22)

- ❖ *Work at Thessalonica (17:1-9)*
- ❖ *Work in Berea (17:10-14)*
- ❖ *Work in Athens (17:15-34)*
- ❖ *Work in Corinth (18:1-17)*
 - a. Paul's Work in the Synagogue (1-6)*
 - b. Paul's Work at the House of Titus Justus (7-11)*
 - c. Paul Charged by the Jews (12-17)*
- ❖ *Paul in Ephesus enroute to Antioch of Syria (18:18-22)*

D. The Third Missionary Journey (18:23-19:19)

- 1. Paul in Galatia and Phrygia (18:23)*
- 2. Apollos Goes from Ephesus to Corinth (18:24-28)*
- 3. Paul in Ephesus (19:1-41)*
 - a. The Twelve Men (1-7)*
 - b. In the Synagogue & School of Tyrannus (8-10)*
 - c. God Confirming Paul's Message by Miracles (11, 12)*
 - d. Seven Sons of Sceva (13-17)*
 - e. Mass Repentance (18, 19)*

f. A Summary Report of the Church in Asia (20)

g. Paul's Statement of His Plans: Jerusalem & Rome (21, 22)

h. Demetrius and the Riot in Ephesus (23-41)

4. Three Months in Greece (20:1-5)

5. Paul's Sermon & Healing at Troas (20:6-12)

6. Paul's Words at Miletus with the Ephesian Elders (20:13-38)

7. Paul at Caesarea and on to Jerusalem (21:1-14)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Paul's missionary trips were so effective?
2. What approach did Paul take in ministering to the people of Athens? Can we use such an approach today?
3. Why did Luke refer to the Bereans as of 'noble character'?
4. Why is Christianity so often ridiculed today? What is the proper response?
5. **Have you ever been ridiculed because of your faith? How did you respond?**
6. Why was Apollos' gospel incomplete? What was he missing in his message (Acts 19:1-7)?
7. What were the elements of the church service in Troas? How does this compare to a modern church service?

The Book of Acts

Unleashing of the Gospel (Chapter 17)

Stoic

- Disciples of Zeno (340-265 BC).
- They were pantheistic – the belief that God and the material world are one and the same thing
- Like today's lingo: 'The Force be with you' and all that Jazz
- Life's goal is harmony with nature, and affections.
- Belief in Euthanasia

Epicureans

- Disciples of Epicurus (341-271 BC).
- The *Epicureans* pursued pleasure as the chief purpose in life.
- Intellectual pleasure is superior.
- Matter is eternal. Existence ends when the body dies.
- Gods have no interest in human affairs.

Paul's address (Acts 17)

- The God who wants to be known
- 'The one whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you ...' (17:24-31)
- Paul used their ideas to begin with and introduced the eternal truth
 1. *Theos* (θεός)– God made the world and everything in it
 2. He cannot be confined to a temple or altar
 3. It is not God but people who are dependent on him.
 4. God planned specific times and places for people to live so that somehow, they will know HIM (Acts 17:26-27) as HE is.
 5. It is Him who has created us all from one man. (They believed they sprang from the soil of Greece and were superior to other races. Paul punctured their balloon!)
 6. God planned specific times and places for people to live so that somehow, they will know HIM (Acts 17:26-27) as HE is.
 7. God has overlooked the *Athenian ignorance*, but now they must know God as HE is.
 8. God sent Jesus & raised him from the dead to judge the world (Acts 17:31)
- To make his point, Paul used two poets familiar to his listeners. [Epimenides & Aratus]
- Epimenides (600 BC): 'In Him, we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:28)
- Aratus (300 BC): 'We are also His offspring' (Acts 17:28)
- Although the reaction was cynical laughter, some believed. Two are named *Dionysius* and a woman - *Damaris*.