

Knowing the Gospel, Proclaiming the Gospel

Acts 17:1-15 Acts 17:1-15

1. Pursue & Persuade vs. 1-4

God used Paul and his team to pursue and persuade those attending the Jewish synagogue to believe through sharing the gospel, responding to their objections, and demonstrating the validity of Jesus being the Messiah.

When proclaiming the gospel, we are to pursue where God is working, and persuade them of the gospel through sharing the gospel, responding to their objections, and demonstrating the validity of Jesus being Saviour and Lord.

2. Prepare to Limit vs. 5-10; vs. 13-15

Whether in Thessalonica or Berea, Paul and his team responded to hostile opposition with the same focus; doing whatever they could to reduce opposition while maintaining the truth of the gospel.

When proclaiming the gospel, our approach to opposition when it arises is to do whatever we can to reduce opposition while maintaining the truth of the gospel.

3. Promote Investigation vs. 11-12

Many Bereans believed because they emulated the approach that Paul's team modeled; investigating the gospel claims by examining the scriptures.

When proclaiming the gospel, we need to model and encourage others to be pursuers of truth through investigating the gospel claims by examining the scriptures.

Main Idea:

When proclaiming the gospel, we need to persuade through responding to their objections, aim to reduce opposition without compromising the gospel, and model/encourage others to investigate the gospel by examining the scriptures.

Deployment:

- 1) When we studied Acts 13:44-52, we were reminded that when we proclaim the gospel, God is the one that draws people to the truth. He is the one that intentionally creates faith in the hearts chosen to believe, and guides us to focus only on those who are receptive. However, the receptive may need us to respond to their objections and questions.

How would you answer these questions?

- a) Livable- How would you explain that the gospel is practical for a person's life?

 - b) Verified- How would you explain that the gospel facts can be verified through studying and testing?

 - c) Relevant- How would you explain that the Bible answers humanity's big "why" questions and addresses our need for purpose and meaning?
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- 2) In 2013, the Canadian Bible Engagement Study was conducted and found that only 14 percent of Canadian Christians read the Bible at least once a week. Also, the average Canadian is not eager to find truth through examining the scriptures, as they seldom or never read the Bible. In what ways can we do a better job in modeling and spurring others to examine the scriptures for the truth?