

**INTRODUCTION**

- \* In Acts 9, we saw the call and conversion of Saul of Tarsus. In that account, Jesus speaks to the prophet Ananias telling him to go and heal Saul. Ananias balks and Jesus states, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."
- \* As Paul began his ministry with Barnabas and they traveled proclaiming the gospel to the Jews and then to the Gentiles, Paul began to experience what Christ had proclaimed regarding him. Now, as he is traveling with Silas, Timothy and Luke, his suffering for the name of Jesus has continued.
- \* The primary cause of that suffering is people's response to the gospel message. The good news of God's free gift of salvation from eternal condemnation is not always met with gladness! Rather, as Paul and his companions find out, it is many times with resistance, rejection, and persecution.
- \* Today, we continue to see that pattern in the cities of Thessalonica and Berea.
- \* As we consider how "others" receive or reject the message of the gospel, I must ask myself: how do I respond to God's message in His word? Do I receive or reject His Word of truth in my life?

**INSTRUCTION****I. THEIR MINISTRY AT THESSALONICA (v. 1-9)****A. Their Reception (v. 1-4)**

1. THE P\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE GOSPEL
  - a. His M\_\_\_\_\_
    - \* Explaining
    - \* Demonstrating
  - b. His M\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
    - i. THE S\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (cf. Luke 24:26-27, 46; Psalm 22; Isaiah 50:6; Isaiah 53; Zechariah 12:10)
    - ii. THE R\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (cf. Psalm 16:10-11; Isaiah 53:10-12; Luke 24:46)
    - iii. THE I\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (cf. Acts 2:22-24,36; 5:31; 10:36-42; 18:28; Galatians 3:1)
2. THE P\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE GOSPEL (cf. 1 Thessalonians 1)
  - a. They Became Followers of the Apostles
  - b. They Became Followers of the Lord
    - i. THEY R\_\_\_\_\_ THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION
    - ii. THEY T\_\_\_\_\_ FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING & TRUE GOD
    - iii. THEY C\_\_\_\_\_ TO WAIT FOR JESUS - FROM HEAVEN!

**B. Their Rejection (v. 4-9)**

1. THE C\_\_\_\_\_ OF THEIR JEALOUSY
2. THE E\_\_\_\_\_ OF THEIR JEALOUSY
  - a. Their A\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Their A\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Acts 16:21; Matt 27:17; John 19:12-15, 19-22; Psalm 2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14)

**II. THEIR MINISTRY AT BERE A****A. Their Reception**

1. THE NOBILITY OF THE BEREANS
  - a. They R\_\_\_\_\_ The Word With \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. They E\_\_\_\_\_ The Scriptures To \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Luke 23:14; Acts 4:9; 12:19; 24:8; 28:18)
2. THE CONVERSION OF THE BEREANS

**B. Their Rejection (v. 13)****INTROSPECTION**

- \* What is your response to the Word of God - do you receive it passionately, study it and apply it ... or do you reject it?
- \* How do you react when you are confronted with truth that opposes what you have previously held?
- \* Is your transformation such that others have noticed it and talking about it? Was it ever?
- \* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

**INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion**

- \* How can we encourage one another to be bolder and more faithful to distribute the gospel?