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## Acts 17:1-12

1. “Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
2. And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
3. explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, ‘This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.’
4. And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.
5. But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.
6. When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, ‘These men who have upset the world have come here also;
7. and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.’”
8. They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.
9. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the

others, they released them.

10. The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

12. Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.”

Whenever and wherever truth is proclaimed there is controversy. Contrary to popular belief, often the lack of controversy indicates the truth is not being proclaimed. Jesus Himself was and is one of the most controversial persons who ever lived!

In Thessalonica, when some of the Jews were persuaded by Paul's teachings, along with a large number of Gentiles, many of the Jews became jealous. These men enlisted wicked men to form a mob and create an uproar in that city. Then they blamed the Christians for starting the civil unrest!

Truly, there is nothing new under the sun. Evil men throughout history have used such tactics.

Then Paul and Silas traveled to Berea, another city in the region with a synagogue. We read that the people at Berea “were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great

eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

Here God defines noble-mindedness as: 1. receiving His word with great eagerness, 2. examining the Scriptures daily, and 3. evaluating any new material or info by the word of God.

Those who love truth are never afraid to explore and examine new ideas and information. Instead they eagerly pursue the enlargement of their knowledge and understanding.

On the other hand, those who do not love truth reject or ignore information that doesn't fit with their pre-conceived notions and so choose to remain ignorant. This is a very dangerous position spiritually. Paul stated later in Acts 17, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31

We challenge our listeners to be noble-minded as God defines noble-mindedness. Receive the word with great eagerness--especially passages you've never considered before--and examine the Scriptures daily, to see what is really truth.