

**Acts 17 “Upside Down”**  
**Acts 17:1-15**  
**January 25, 2026**

Acts 17:1-15

After they passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As usual, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.” 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women.

5 But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason’s house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. 6 When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, 7 and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king—Jesus.” 8 The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset. 9 After taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. Upon arrival, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, *since* they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

12 Consequently, many of them believed, including a number of the prominent Greek women as well as men. 13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul at Berea, they came there too, agitating and upsetting[b] the crowds. 14 Then the brothers and sisters immediately sent Paul away to go to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed on there. 15 Those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible, they departed.

The primacy and effectiveness of Scripture brings us closer to Jesus and changes our lives.

Scripture reveals character.

Sola Scriptura.

Jesus’ death and resurrection flow from already understood themes.

1Thessalonians 2:13 - This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human

message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.

Road to Emmaus.

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:32

32 They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?"

"Upsetting" the world.

Jesus is the king in every area and in every way.

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- 1.) What did God say to you through the Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Describe Paul's strategy for sharing the gospel in Thessalonica and Berea. How might Paul's approach to dialoguing with others about Scripture point to our need to have similar discussion? Give insight into your own approach to sharing your faith?
- 3.) What qualities would someone of good character embody? How is Luke highlighting the source of good character and its connection to the Scriptures in Acts 17:11?
- 4.) The Bereans went back to the Scriptures to verify what Paul said was true. Why is this such a good and instructive insight? When are we prone to accept teaching because of someone's fame or education? What is the caution?
- 5.) How does Luke 24 and the disciples' journey to Emmaus reveal that Scripture can do more than give us wisdom and religious insight? Why is the heart important to the Christian life?
- 6.) Acts 17:7 records the gospel critics saying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too." What do you think the critics mean? How does the gospel turn the world upside down or right side up? In what ways is Jesus turning your life right side up currently?
- 7.) One of Rivertree's discipleship questions is: "Am I enjoying the nearness of God through prayer and Scripture?" Discuss your personal experience with Scripture. How has it helped you enjoy God? Is there a way you want to grow in your practice and devotion to the Scriptures?