

Note: In town after town, Paul impresses and converts many people, Jew and Gentile alike. Jealousy builds up among the Jewish leaders in hatred for Paul and disrupting the status quo. They get the city leaders to arrest Paul, and he flees to the next big town, where the cycle repeats. In Athens, when speaking outside of a synagogue, Paul changes his evangelical approach.

1. What was Paul's usual custom upon entering a town where he had not evangelized before? (Acts 17:1-4, 10, 17)
2. What do you think is the main reason why the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica were jealous and wanted to get rid of Paul? (Acts 17:5)
3. Thessalonica was a "free city" in the Roman Empire, which meant it had a popular assembly empowered to investigate charges. Of what crime would the new Christians be accused and brought before the civil or city authorities? (Acts 17:6-8)
4. How did Paul's reception in the synagogue in Berea differ from his reception in other towns? (Acts 17:10-12)
5. How well did the believers care for Paul when the Thessalonians came after him? (Acts 17:14-15)
6. How did Paul spend his time in Athens while waiting for Silas and Timothy, and why was he so disheartened? (Acts 17:16-17)

Note: In Paul's day, the term *Areopagus*, as used in Acts Chapter 17, refers to the group of Athenian leaders and thinkers who met on a hill called Areopagus to discuss and debate philosophical and theological issues. The Athenians were primarily interested in defending a Greek concept of the "gods." Paul was invited to present information that the Athenians saw as "new."

7. After being invited by the local Athenian philosophers to explain this new teaching and its meaning (Acts 17:19), Paul delivers a very new kind of introduction to Christian teaching, different from his synagogue sermons.
 - a. How does Paul introduce his teachings? (Acts 17:22)
 - b. How does he connect it to the city of Athens? (Acts 17:23)
 - c. What does Paul mean when he says, "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:23)
8. When talking with the Athenians, what were some of the things Paul told the people about God? (Acts 17:24-32)
9. When Paul finished his talk to the Athenians, what were the different responses they gave to it? (Acts 17:32-34)