

**“Acts – Enlarging Kingdom (12): 2nd Missionary Journey –
Thessalonica, Berea and Athens” (Acts 17)**

**3 Types of Responses to the Gospel:
Violent Opposition, Ready Acceptance, and Ridicule and Rejection
Be Prepared and not Surprised by either Receptive or Hostile Responses**

I. Deep into the European Continent

A. Thessalonica – Violent Opposition (17:1-9)

- 1. Use of Scripture to Explain and Prove: Jesus is the Christ – Messiah**
- 2. Jealousy of Unbelieving Jews Incited Riot**

**Accusation: “Another King – Jesus” shows Jews were behind the Riot,
and Reflects Paul’s Proclamation of the Messianic Kingdom
(1 Thes 3:13; 5:1-11; 2 Thes 1:5-10; 2:14)**

B. Berea – Ready Acceptance (17:10-15)

- 1. Berean Jews were More Noble than the Thessalonian Jews**

**Receiving Paul’s Message with Eagerness, but Examined the Scriptures
to see if what Paul said was Correct**

- 2. Result: Many Conversions of both Jews and Greeks**

C. Athens – Ridicule and Rejection (17:16-43)

- 1. Paul and his Antagonists: the Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers**
- 2. Paul’s Preaching at Areopagus: Message in One Statement (vv 22-31)**

**God, who has revealed Himself in Creation, has now Commanded All to Repent,
for everyone must give an Account to Jesus Christ
whom God Raised from the Dead**

II. Lessons for us today: Parable of the Sower of the Seed (Matt 13:3-23)

A. Thessalonica: Hardened Soil – Be Prepared (1 Pet 3:15; Acts 17:2-3)

Are you so Convinced of Resurrection that you are Motivated to Witness?

B. Berea: Good Soil – Ripened Fruits

Do not let the Opportunity Slip By!

C. Athens: Hardened, Shallow and Crowded Soil

**Divine Weapon is Prayer: Pray that God might soften the field.
Let’s take the Gospel to our “Athens”!**