

Title: “Paul the Presuppositionalist”

Propositional Question: If Paul could take a stand with the Jews, shouldn't we take a stand with family, friends, and associates?

Text: Acts 17:1-9 “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.”

CONTEXT:

Who: Dr. Luke was the human author of the book of Acts.

What: Paul's apologetic outreach to the Jews.

Where: At the Synagogue at Thessalonica.

When: This event took place in 29AD and was written in 63 AD.

How: Paul's second missionary trip.

INTERPRETATION:

Key theme: Reasoned from the Scriptures.

Key words: Believed, Jesus Christ.

Summary the text: The Apostle Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica on his second missionary trip. Paul's main audience was the Jewish people. In business this would be referred to as a natural market. This is to say, because Paul was a Jew, more accurately he was a completed Jew, which was predicated on his conversion to Christ on the Damascus Road. Paul retold the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the Jewish people in the Synagogue. Numerous Jews and many Greeks came to personal faith in Christ as their Messiah. Most of the Jews were very angry at Paul and his missionary associates. The Jewish leaders were envious of the large movement of those that were following the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Jews, under Caesar, and the Roman government were afraid that this new kingdom being preached would overtake Rome. The Gospel message and the kingdom is always about eternal life through Christ.

Summary of the passage: The Apostle Paul was spreading the new message of salvation through the risen Saviour across Asia Minor. The Apostle Paul's second missionary trip brought him to the city of Thessalonica. Paul was employing what we would refer to as an apologetic ministry within the Synagogue with the Jewish people and leaders.

Summary of the main verse: Acts 17:2 "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures," The Apostle Paul was practicing presuppositional apologetics. Paul had enormous determination to persuade and teach his fellow Jewish friends the Way of salvation. Paul's seminary training, sitting at the feet of Gamaliel for three years, proved to be effective preparation to be a persuasive Apologist for Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION:

Original audience: Jewish people and leaders of the Synagogue in Asia Minor.

To myself: To prepare to confront other worldviews with the truth claims of the bible.

To family: Take the apologetic training offered at your church to be better able to win family to the Lord.

To church: Continually provide training to church member to provide the apologetic tools needed to me an effective witness to family, friends, and co-workers.

To my job: Do not take time away from other employees to witness to them while both you and they are on the clock, unless you are the employer. Do see about holding an apologetic Bible study during breaks, at the house, or at the church.

To society: As a Christian one must realize that the only ones that can truly help our world are committed Christians, armed with apologetic tools, that can win and disciple into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Christian Apologist truly is a warrior on the frontlines fighting for truth, being salt and light in this ever increasing dark world, persuading skeptics into eternal life.