



LIVING WITH PURPOSE

NOBLE MINDED



PAUL'S METHODOLOGY

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:1** ... THERE WAS A JEWISH SYNAGOGUE. ² AS HIS CUSTOM WAS, PAUL WENT INTO THE SYNAGOGUE, AND ON THREE SABBATH DAYS HE REASONED WITH THEM FROM THE SCRIPTURES, ³ EXPLAINING AND PROVING THAT THE CHRIST HAD TO SUFFER AND RISE FROM THE DEAD. "THIS JESUS I AM PROCLAIMING TO YOU IS THE CHRIST," HE SAID.

1. GO TO SYNAGOGUE
2. REASON FROM SCRIPTURE
3. PROCLAIM GOSPEL



THESSALONICA VS BEREIA

SIMILARITIES

1. PAUL PREACHED THE GOSPEL IN THE SYNAGOGUE
 - THESSALONICA V.1-2
 - BEREA V.10

2. JEWS BELIEVED ALONG WITH GENTILE WOMEN AND MEN
 - THESSALONICA V.4
 - BEREA V.12

DIFFERENCES

- THESSALONICA
 - ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:4** SOME OF THE JEWS WERE PERSUADED ... AS DID A **LARGE NUMBER OF** GOD-FEARING GREEKS AND NOT A FEW PROMINENT WOMEN.
- BEREAA
 - ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:12** MANY OF THE JEWS BELIEVED, AS DID ALSO A **NUMBER OF** PROMINENT GREEK WOMEN AND MANY GREEK MEN.

MAJOR DIFFERENCE

- MAJORITY OF JEWS IN THESSALONICA NOT ONLY DIDN'T BELIEVE, THEY FORMED A MOB AND ACCUSED THE CHRISTIANS OF TREASON AGAINST CAESAR
 - ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:7** ...THEY ARE ALL DEFYING CAESAR'S DECREES, SAYING THAT THERE IS ANOTHER KING, ONE CALLED JESUS.“
 - ^{NIV} **LUKE 23:2** ..."WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN SUBVERTING OUR NATION. HE OPPOSES PAYMENT OF TAXES TO CAESAR AND CLAIMS TO BE CHRIST, A KING.“
- MARCHED ON TO BEREIA AND REPEATED

THE REASON

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:2** ...HE REASONED WITH THEM FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...⁴
SOME OF THE JEWS WERE PERSUADED ...
- ^{NIV} **ACTS 17:11** NOW THE BEREANS WERE OF MORE NOBLE CHARACTER THAN THE THESSALONIANS, FOR THEY RECEIVED THE MESSAGE WITH GREAT EAGERNESS AND EXAMINED THE SCRIPTURES EVERY DAY TO SEE IF WHAT PAUL SAID WAS TRUE.

NOBLE MINDED

- ^{NAS} **JOB 23:12** "I HAVE NOT DEPARTED FROM THE COMMAND OF HIS LIPS; I HAVE TREASURED THE WORDS OF HIS MOUTH MORE THAN MY NECESSARY FOOD.
- ^{NIV} **PROVERBS 8:10** CHOOSE MY INSTRUCTION INSTEAD OF SILVER, KNOWLEDGE RATHER THAN CHOICE GOLD,
- ^{NIV} **1 PETER 2:2** LIKE NEWBORN BABIES, CRAVE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK, SO THAT BY IT YOU MAY GROW UP IN YOUR SALVATION,



A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

- BOTH GROUPS HAD REGULAR SCRIPTURE READINGS AND LESSONS
 - THESSALONIANS IGNORED IT
 - BEREANS CHERISHED IT
- NOT A STORY OF HOW TWO GROUPS *OUTSIDE* GOD'S COVENANT COMMUNITY RESPONDED TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE BUT HOW TWO *INSIDE* DID

THE PROBLEM IS ONGOING

- ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 3:1** BUT REALIZE THIS, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS DIFFICULT TIMES WILL COME. ² FOR MEN WILL BE LOVERS OF SELF, LOVERS OF MONEY, BOASTFUL, ARROGANT, REVILERS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, UNGRATEFUL, UNHOLY, ³ UNLOVING, IRRECONCILABLE, MALICIOUS GOSSIPS, WITHOUT SELF-CONTROL, BRUTAL, HATERS OF GOOD, ⁴ TREACHEROUS, RECKLESS, CONCEITED, LOVERS OF PLEASURE RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD; ⁵ HOLDING TO A FORM OF GODLINESS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DENIED ITS POWER; AND AVOID SUCH MEN AS THESE... ⁷ ALWAYS LEARNING AND NEVER ABLE TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH. ⁸ AND JUST AS JANNES AND JAMBRES OPPOSED MOSES, SO THESE MEN ALSO OPPOSE THE TRUTH, MEN OF DEPRAVED MIND, REJECTED AS REGARDS THE FAITH.

BE WARNED

- ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 3:12** AND INDEED, ALL WHO DESIRE TO LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED. ¹³ BUT EVIL MEN AND IMPOSTORS WILL PROCEED *FROM BAD TO WORSE*, DECEIVING AND BEING DECEIVED.

BE PREPARED

- ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 3:14** YOU, HOWEVER, CONTINUE IN THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND BECOME CONVINCED OF, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU HAVE LEARNED *THEM*; ¹⁵ AND THAT FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE SACRED WRITINGS WHICH ARE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE WISDOM THAT LEADS TO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS. ¹⁶ ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS; ¹⁷ THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.



CONCLUSIONS

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

1. RECOGNIZE OUR DEPENDENCE ON SCRIPTURE
2. RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE
3. RECOGNIZE THE BEAUTY OF SCRIPTURE

1. RECOGNIZE OUR DEPENDENCE ON SCRIPTURE

- EVEN THOUGH HE WROTE MUCH OF THE NT PAUL STILL RELIED ON SCRIPTURE AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS TEACHING AND PREACHING
 - ACTS 17:2
- EVEN AT THE END OF HIS LIFE PAUL STILL RELIED ON SCRIPTURE FOR HIS OWN SPIRITUAL STRENGTH AND GROWTH
 - ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 4:6** FOR I AM ALREADY BEING Poured OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING, AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE HAS COME. ⁷ I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH; ... ¹³ WHEN YOU COME BRING THE CLOAK WHICH I LEFT AT TROAS WITH CARPUS, AND THE BOOKS, ESPECIALLY THE PARCHMENTS.

- JESUS USED SCRIPTURE TO OPEN AND CLOSE HIS MINISTRY
- ^{NAS} **LUKE 4:20** AND HE CLOSED THE BOOK, AND GAVE IT BACK TO THE ATTENDANT, AND SAT DOWN; AND THE EYES OF ALL IN THE SYNAGOGUE WERE FIXED UPON HIM. ²¹ AND HE BEGAN TO SAY TO THEM, "TODAY THIS SCRIPTURE HAS BEEN FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING."
- ^{NAS} **LUKE 24:25** AND HE SAID TO THEM...²⁶ "WAS IT NOT NECESSARY FOR THE CHRIST TO SUFFER THESE THINGS AND TO ENTER INTO HIS GLORY?" ²⁷ AND BEGINNING WITH MOSES AND WITH ALL THE PROPHETS, HE EXPLAINED TO THEM THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES.

2. RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE

POWER FOR SALVATION

- ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 3:15** AND THAT FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE SACRED WRITINGS WHICH ARE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE WISDOM THAT LEADS TO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS.
- ^{NAS} **JOHN 5:39** "YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, BECAUSE YOU THINK THAT IN THEM YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE; AND IT IS THESE THAT BEAR WITNESS OF ME;
- ^{NAS} **ROMANS 1:16** FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK.

2. RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE

POWER FOR STRENGTH AND GROWTH

- ^{NAS} **2 TIMOTHY 3:16** ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS; ¹⁷ THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.
- ^{NAS} **HEBREWS 4:12** FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, AND PIERCING AS FAR AS THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, OF BOTH JOINTS AND MARROW, AND ABLE TO JUDGE THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART.

3. RECOGNIZE THE BEAUTY OF SCRIPTURE

- ^{NAS} **PSALM 19:7** THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT, RESTORING THE SOUL; THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE. ⁸ THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT, REJOICING THE HEART; THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE, ENLIGHTENING THE EYES. ⁹ THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN, ENDURING FOREVER; THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE; THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER. ¹⁰ THEY ARE MORE DESIRABLE THAN GOLD, YES, THAN MUCH FINE GOLD; SWEETER ALSO THAN HONEY AND THE DRIPPINGS OF THE HONEYCOMB. ¹¹ MOREOVER, BY THEM THY SERVANT IS WARNED; IN KEEPING THEM THERE IS GREAT REWARD.

IT IS THROUGH SCRIPTURE WE SEE THE BEAUTY OF GOD

- ^{NAS} **PSALM 27:4** ONE THING I HAVE ASKED FROM THE LORD, THAT I SHALL SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD, AND TO MEDITATE IN HIS TEMPLE.
- ^{NAS} **SONG OF SOLOMON 5:10** "MY BELOVED IS DAZZLING AND RUDDY, OUTSTANDING AMONG TEN THOUSAND...¹⁶ "HIS MOUTH IS *FULL OF SWEETNESS*. AND HE IS WHOLLY DESIRABLE. THIS IS MY BELOVED AND THIS IS MY FRIEND, O DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM."
- ^{NAS} **2 CORINTHIANS 4:6** FOR GOD, WHO SAID, "LIGHT SHALL SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS," IS THE ONE WHO HAS SHONE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF CHRIST.

OUR CHALLENGE

- ^{NAS} **JOSHUA 1:8** "THIS BOOK OF THE LAW SHALL NOT DEPART FROM YOUR MOUTH, BUT YOU SHALL MEDITATE ON IT DAY AND NIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE CAREFUL TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN IT; FOR THEN YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS, AND THEN YOU WILL HAVE SUCCESS.
- ^{NAS} **COLOSSIANS 3:16** LET THE WORD OF CHRIST RICHLY DWELL WITHIN YOU, WITH ALL WISDOM TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER WITH PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD.
- ^{NIV} **2 TIMOTHY 4:2** PREACH THE WORD; BE PREPARED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON; CORRECT, REBUKE AND ENCOURAGE-- WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION.