

Uproar in Thessalonica

Acts 17:1-15

by Don Falkos

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Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica. On three consecutive Sabbaths, Paul spoke in the synagogue, using the scriptures to show beyond any doubt the Messiah had to be executed and then rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." Some believed and joined Paul and Silas, including many Gentiles.

But some of the Jews formed a mob and started a riot. They went to the house of a believer named Jason, thinking Paul and Silas would be there, but they weren't. So the mob dragged out Jason and some other believers and took them before the city council, shouting, "Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world. Now they've come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all guilty of treason against Caesar, professing allegiance to another king, a king named Jesus."

Both the people and the members of the council were very upset. The officials forced Jason and the others to post bond before letting them go.

That very night the believers in Thessalonica sent Paul and Silas to Berea. The people there were much more receptive to Paul's message – enthusiastic even. They searched the scriptures every day to see if Paul was teaching the truth. Many believed – Jews and Gentiles, men and women.

When the Jews in Thessalonica heard Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, some of them came and stirred up trouble, gathering a crowd and then whipping them into a frenzy. So Paul moved on to Athens, while Silas and Timothy stayed behind to throw off pursuit. They would join him later.