

2/19/2023

New Year 2023

Stay Centered on Jesus!

Jesus & Religious Rule-Followers (Thessalonica & Berea)

² Paul went into the synagogue in Thessalonica and on three Sabbath days he **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah **had to suffer** and **rise from the dead**. He said, "**This Jesus** I am proclaiming to you **is the Messiah**."

⁴ Some of the Jews **were persuaded** and **joined** Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

⁵ But other Jews were **jealous**; so they gathered some troublemakers from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city... **Acts 17:2-5**

¹¹ In Berea, people in the synagogue were **more open-minded** than those in Thessalonica. They **listened eagerly** to Paul's message and **searched the Scriptures** daily to see if Paul was teaching the truth. ¹² As a result, many Jews **believed**, as did many prominent Greek women and men.

¹³ But when some Jews in Thessalonica learned Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they went there and stirred up trouble... **Acts 17:11-13**

- **Keep focus on** Jesus crucified & risen !
- **Remain open to** Jesus rocking the boat !

Jesus & Irreligious Disrupters (Athens)

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting in Athens, he was **greatly distressed** to see the city full of idols. ¹⁷ So **he reasoned** in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there...

²² Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way **you are very religious**. ²³ For as I walked and looked carefully at **your objects of worship**, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What you worship as unknown- I am going to tell you about.

²⁴ "**The God** who made the world and everything in it is the **Lord of heaven and earth** and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ He is not served by human hands, **as if he needed anything**. Rather, **he himself gives everyone life and breath** and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

²⁷ **God did this** so people would **seek him** and perhaps **reach out** for him and **find him**, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ **For in him** we live and move and have our being. ²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we should not think **the divine being** is like gold, silver, or stone—**an image made by human design and skill**. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will **judge the world with justice** by the man he has appointed. He has **given proof of this to everyone** by **raising him from the dead**."

³² When they heard about the **resurrection of the dead**, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." ³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people **became followers** of Paul and **believed**. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others. **Acts 17:16-34**

- **Worship God as** all-sufficient Creator, Sustainer, & Lover !
- **Resist centering** on lesser things of human crafting !

Crossroads Church

Discovering Life Connected with God!

Our Vision

To be a dynamic and diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ connected in transforming relationships with God, each other, and our world!

Our Purpose and Mission

To connect people with God, God's family, and God's mission through a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ!

Our Strategy

To fulfill God's purpose in our lives through a balanced commitment to love God with our entire being and to love our neighbor as ourselves, according to God's Great Commandment and Great Commission in the Bible.

Our Commitment

Growth

To speak and act more like Jesus Christ each day of our lives.
To reach people disconnected from God with the love of Jesus.

Relationships

To develop depth, consistency, and closeness in our walk with Jesus.
To share life and spiritual journey together with each other.

Relevance

To apply God's truths and principles to life in practical ways.
To engage and meaningfully share Jesus with people.

Involvement

To participate in church family relationships and responsibilities.
To discover and contribute our dynamic and diverse abilities.

Truth

To value Jesus Christ and the Bible as God's eternal revelation to us.
To believe and center on Jesus Christ as forgiver and life leader.

Let's Catch the Vision and Share the Mission Together!

"We are an autonomous, biblically-based church family that actively partners locally and internationally to fulfill our mission to connect people in transforming relationship with Jesus Christ!"