

Living in Triumph
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Acts 17

I. Text Overview

A. Paul's journey takes him to Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens

1. In Thessalonica he preaches Christ and the kingdom to the Jews
 - a. A multitude of Greeks received Jesus, but the Jews did not
 - b. The Jews form a **MOB** to assault Paul and Silas, but not finding them they assault his host Jason
 - c. They accused Jason of crimes against Caesar, saying:

V 6 -9 These men who have upset the world have come here also; and jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus. And they stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.

- d. Paul and Silas are **slipped out of town** in the night and make their way to Berea

2. In Berea, they are **RECEIVED** by the Jews in the **SYNAGOGUE**

V 11-12 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

- a. However, when the Jews from Thessalonica heard about this, they **CAME to BEREA** and stirred up trouble again for Paul and Silas
 - b. So, Paul was escorted out of Berea into Athens
3. While waiting in **ATHENS** for Silas and Timothy to join him, Paul becomes troubled because the city is full of **IDOLS**
 - a. He **PREACHED DAILY** in the marketplace and engaged **JEWES, STOICS, EPICURIANS**, and philosophers who loved to talk **PHILOSOPHY** and **RELIGION** with him

B. Here is where the FAMOUS MARS HILL SERMON is recorded

1. He **NOTES** the **ALTAR** inscribed with **TO AN UNKOWN GOD**
 - a. He **USES** this as his **ILLUSTRATED SERMON** to **TELL** them **WHO** this **UNKNOWN GOD** they **WORSHIP REALLY IS**
 - b. he **PREFACES** his **MESSAGE** by informing them that they are **VERY RELIGIOUS** in all respects

This **TRANSLATES** that they are very **SUPERSTITIOUS** – they **FEAR** the **gods** rather than **LOVE** the **ONE TRUE and ONLY GOD**

- c. Read **VS 24-31**

Key VS 28 **FOR IN HIM we LIVE and MOVE and EXIST, as EVEN SOME of YOUR OWN POETS HAVE SAID, FOR WE ALSO ARE HIS OFFSPRING.**

- a. **Offspring – born – stock – generation**
- b. Sons and Daughters – God is our Abba Dad

ONCE AGAIN, SOME MOCKED and SNEERED, but OTHERS BELIEVED!

II. The MESSAGE of Acts 17 – Living in Triumph

- A. Paul was **VERY INTENTIONAL** about **HIS ASSIGNMENT**
 1. It was **BORN** out of **HIS ENCOUNTER** on the **DAMASCUS ROAD**
 - a. That **DAY** his **LIFE** changed **FOREVER**
 - b. **ONE ENCOUNTER** with **GOD** set him on **COURSE for LIFE**
 2. It **GREW** and **DEVELOPED** through **HIS CONSTANT PURSUIT**
 - a. He was **VERY INTENTIONAL** and **FAITHFUL** to **HIS CALL**
 - b. He **MET GREAT OPPOSITION** along the **WAY**

Yet, in the FACE of OPPOSITION, HE NEVER LOST HEART or GREW COLD

HE LIVED with a TRIUMPHANT MINDSET

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 *But THANKS BE to God who ALWAYS LEADS US IN HIS TRIUMPH in Christ, and MANIFESTS THROUGH US the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.*

B. Look at the WORD, *Triumph*

1. Definition – **to CONQUER** – *give VICTORY - Victory Procession*
2. The **WORD TENSE** means a **REPEATED ACTION**
3. Can also be stated, *Who ALWAYS LEADS US as captives in HIS TRIUMPHANT PROCESSION*

It is the **PICTURE** of the **KING** who **RETURNS HOME** from **WAR** and **LEADS** the **VICTORY PROCESSIONAL** into the **CITY**

In the **PROCESSIONAL**, there are the **SPOILS** of **WAR DISPLAYED** in the **PARADE** including the **CAPTIVES**

WE are the **CAPTIVES** of **CHRIST** and **WE MANIFEST** the **SWEET AROMA** of the **ONE** who has **CAPTURED OUR HEARTS** and **INTENTIONALLY ENSURES OUR FUTURE** as one of **CONTINUAL VICTORY**

Colossians 2:15 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a SHOW of them OPENLY, TRIUMPHING over them in it*

So, **KNOWING THIS**, how can we **NOT SAY**, *THANKS BE TO GOD*

C. NOTICE, he says, **WE ALWAYS TRIUMPH** in *EVERY PLACE*

1. *Place* – **LOCATION** and **CONDITION**
2. So, **NO MATTER WHERE** you **ARE** in the **EARTH**
3. No **MATTER WHAT** your **SITUATION IS** in **LIFE**

YOU have been **SET UP** for **TRIUMPH**

D. A WORD to **ENCOURAGE YOU**

1. *Posture yourself in the TRIUMPH that I AM*
2. *Posture* speaks of a **MINDSET**
 - a. It is **HOW ONE VIEWS ONESELF** – Victor or Victim
 - b. **HOW** one **SETS HIMSELF** in the **FACE** of **CONFLICT**

Our FAITH in the FINISHED WORK of JESUS REMAINS the BEDROCK OF VICTORY

E. COMMAND your TRIUMPH

1. God ALWAYS FINISHES what He STARTS
2. Story of George Washington

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), 23-year old **George Washington** served under British General Edward Braddock. He went back and forth delivering orders from General Braddock to the British forces spread out through the northeast. While engaging his assignments, George Washington was **shot at multiple times** by the enemy. He had **two horses** shot out from under him, **four bullet holes** in his jacket, and **bullet fragments** literally combed from his hair. Despite this, he was **never personally touched** by any bullet. One soldier observing Washington stated, *I expected every moment to see him fall. Nothing but the superintending care of Providence could have saved him.* Eventually General Braddock was killed and **every officer on horseback shot except for Washington**. He was referred to as, *the particular favorite of heaven, and one who can never die in battle.*

- a. It was said that the enemy officers instructed their troops to **NOT WASTE** their ammunition trying to kill Washington
- b. He **CLEARLY** had **DIVINE PROTECTION**

But THANKS BE to God who ALWAYS LEADS US IN HIS TRIUMPH in Christ, and MANIFESTS THROUGH US the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

3. You must COMMAND your TRIUMPH

- a. Remember *ahee-the'-o – to demand something that is due*
 1. **Most common** word for **PRAYER** in NT
 2. **Used 82 times** and means *to insist or demand*
 3. It is a **PRAYER** born out of **intimacy** and released with **faith, authority, and demand** because **God** desires it
- b. Maybe it is **TIME** for **YOU** to be **INTENTIONAL** about your **DESTINY**
- c. Maybe all the **HEAVINESS** you are **ENCOUNTERING** is Holy Spirit urging you to **STEP UP** and **BE INTENTIONAL**

Release the DEMAND of GOD through the COMMAND he has given YOU