

# *A Reasonable Gospel*

Acts 17:1-9

PART ONE

## **Introduction**

1 Thessalonians 2:2

“be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might.” Ephesians 6:10

Philippians 4:16

**v1**

**v2**

“*three Sabbath days*”

“*he reasoned with them*”

“*reasoned*”

Acts 17:17

Acts 18:4

**#1 Christians are *reasonable* people.**

“reasonable” = ‘having sound judgment, sensible, sane.’

“**Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord...**” Isaiah 1:18-20

**#2 The gospel is a *reasoned* accusation of sin with an assurance of forgiveness for those who repent.**

“let us reason together”

This is a call to enter into a reasoned discussion with God.

“says the Lord.... For the mouth of the Lord has spoken”

“willing and obedient...refuse and rebel”

**#3 Not just a willing mind, but a change of course constitutes true repentance.**

*Reason*, applying truth, facts and evidence to the understanding, is the only sensible way to arrive at real justice.

**#4 Sin is unreasonable. It lacks good sense. It is illogical. To sin is the madness of fallen human beings.**

**#5 The contrast to reason is emotion. Living by emotions is a dangerous way to live. It leads to instability.**

“The graces and comforts of the Spirit are communicated to the soul by the enlightening of the understanding. In this way He gains and keeps possession. Satan takes a contrary way: he gets possession by the senses and the passions, Christ by the understanding” (Matthew Henry).

The masses are easily swayed and through manipulating their passions, emotions, and sentimentalities.

### **#6 The Christian reasons “*from the Scriptures*”**

Since reason itself is derived from God, it follows that as Christians our reasoning should be draw from His Word at all times.

### **#7 We are transformed into likeness of Christ through the renewing of the *mind*:**

Romans 12:2; cp Ephesians 4:17-25

This is how we are sanctified, the truth applied to the mind: John 17:17

Psalm 119:11

#### **v3**

“*explaining/opening*” Gk *dianoigon*; “to open the mind, the heart, i.e., to make able and willing to understand” (Zodhiates).

“*proving/alleging*”

**This is expository preaching: *proclaiming, explaining, proving, persuading.***

“*it was necessary for the Christ to suffer*”

Their own Scriptures told of a “suffering” Messiah: Isaiah 53:3-5

“*and to rise from the dead*”

Psalm 16:9-10

#### **v4**

“*persuaded/believed*” ‘to be convinced’

“*devout*” ‘to revere, adore, worship.’