

A Reasonable Gospel

Acts 17:1-15

PART TWO

Introduction

vv2-3

In our attempts to evangelize, Christians are to *reason* with people from the Scriptures.

v4 “And some of them were persuaded.”

This is the turning point, the hinge pin, of the passage:

v5

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

Belief precedes emotion.

“jealous” Gk *zelo*, zeal; ‘move with envy; strive; filled with jealousy.’

Jealous = ‘Troubled by the belief, suspicion, or fear that the good which one desires to gain or keep for oneself has been or may be diverted to another.’

The Jews were “jealous” over perceived threats to their *position, prestige, prominence, and prosperity*.

Matthew 27:18

Acts 5:17-18

Acts 13:45

Jealousy, a work of the flesh, often comes from insecurity or fear of loss.

A powerful vice that can lead to *duplicity* and *subterfuge*.

Acts 14:2

Acts 17:13

Acts 18:12

Unbridled jealousy leads to deception and division (or worse). Christ unifies. Sin divides.

1 Corinthians 3:3-4; 5-11

Galatians 5:21-22

Paul’s exhortation to any Christian who struggles with *jealousy* or *rivalry*:

Galatians 5:25-26

v6

“they dragged Jason and some of the others before the city authorities”

“turned the world upside down”

v7

Luke 23:2

v8

v9

The Bereans

v10

v11

“received the word with all eagerness/readiness of mind”

Any person sincerely seeking the truth in order to judge a matter fairly, equitably, will listen carefully with a willing mind open to reason and good will.

Paul made his case from the Scriptures. He didn't rely on 'lifestyle evangelism.'

John 5:39. If the Scriptures reveal the Person of Christ, why don't we use them in our evangelistic efforts?

v12

Jesus does not call people to accept an unreasonable gospel.

Jesus does not ask people to depart from sound judgement.

He calls them to listen, reason, evaluate, and judge for themselves.

Jesus doesn't expect us to ignore the very faculty of reason He created us with – *our minds!*

We accept the gospel of Jesus Christ by *faith*, but it is not a faith that is unreasonable.

Ephesians 1:16-21

Psalm 34:8