Introduction: Parable of the Sower (Luke 8) the word goes to good and honest hearts with the result of “growth”. Thessalonica is the real-life example of that parable.

**Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.**

**I) Background**

**A) Paul leaves Philippi, Acts 16**

1. He was falsely accused

2. Beaten, imprisoned

**B) Thessalonica**

1. Amphipolis- a days journey, capital of the district in which Philip was located.

2. Apollonia- little less that a days journey, 30 miles

a. They were both smaller towns

b. They would be evangelized as the Gospel would leave Thessalonica.

3. Thessalonica

a. Capital of Macedonia

b. Named after the sister of Alexander the Great

c. Free city- autonomous, no Roman garrison, even printed their own currency.

d. Seaport city

e. Sizeable Jewish population

**II) Paul Went in To Them, v. 2**

**A) Preaching requires going.**

**Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

1. Go means just that, it does not mean to stay.

a. A dog which does not know the difference between sic-em and stay is not worth much.

b. Acts shows us the Gospel going into all the world.

2. It was Paul’s custom to preach to the Jews first and then the Gentiles.

a. We must have an idea of what we are trying to accomplish.

b. We must have a list of prospects- starting with people we know.

**B) For three Sabbaths**

**2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."**

1. He reasoned with them- not just preached to them.

a. Requires one to know the audience.

b. Christianity is a religion which requires us to think.

**Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.**

2. He explained- gave explanation to.

3. He demonstrated (proved RSV)

**Acts 17:3 TCNT He laid before them and explained that the Christ must undergo suffering and rise from the dead; and "It is this man," he declared, "who is the Christ--this Jesus about whom I am telling you."**

4. Gave evidence to, lay along side, let me lay this out for you.

**III) Good Preaching Requires Two Things**

**A) The Scriptures**

1. Specifically the prophecies concerning the Christ.

**Luke 24:46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

2. The Scriptures pointed toward the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

**B) The proper use of Scripture (logic)**

**2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

1. Warning against the misuse of Scripture

**2 Peter 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

2. The scriptures must be read:

a. In their context- O.T. and N.T. Who is speaking? Who is being addressed? Figurative or literal? A passage taken out of context is a pretext.

b. Define words properly. Use Biblical definitions for Bible studies.

c. Look to harmonize passages.

**1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.**

d. Consider all the Bible says on a subject, .et the Bible be its own commentary. Ps. 119.160.

**IV) Reception of God’s Word**

**4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.**

**A) Like the parable of the Sower**

1. Honest and good hearts heard the word

2. They obeyed and produced fruit

**1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,**

**B) Fruit of faith, labor, love, and patience, v 3**

1. They received the word in much affliction

2. There is a difference between conviction-conversion- convenience

**C) The Power of God’s word**

**5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.**

1. Power and God’s word goes together, **Romans 1.16**

2. Power to save, to judge, to condemn, to convert, to convict.

**D) Their example**

**7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1. The power to spread the Gospel

2. To lead by example

3. To turn from idols, sin

4. To serve the living and true God.

Conclusion: We have he word of God confirmed by signs, miracles, and wonders. Proclaiming Jesus as our Lord at the right hand of God. A\Have you received that word? Are you proclaiming thar word in your life?