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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 25

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY – PART 11

The unbelieving religious Jews of Thessalonica had stirred up the city against the missionaries to such a degree that it was no longer safe to remain there. After Jason, at great personal expense, had covered for them, some of the other brethren escorted Paul, Silas, and Timothy secretly out of the city in the middle of the night. (Acts 17:10-15.)

They went to the inland city of Berea and found their second synagogue in which to teach and preach. The Jews there were much more receptive (noble) to Paul's teaching of Jesus as the Messiah. They even diligently searched the scripture rolls to verify that everything Paul taught was indeed just as prophesied.

Many Jews and Greeks became believers. Also, many "honourable women" gave valuable support. Women in Macedonia were considerably more "liberated" or of value than in Asia. This is evidenced by the role of Lydia and the women of prayer in Philippi, and the women of Thessalonica and Berea.

Even today, the Bereans are respected for their due diligence in searching the word of God for truth. Some Christian churches I know of have named their church "Berean."

Unfortunately, the troublous Jews from Thessalonica went to Berea and stirred up the city against Paul to such a degree that he once again had to flee. The brethren escorted Paul to a seaport and put him on a ship to Athens, Greece.

We will pick up the story tomorrow in Athens.