

Thesis Statement: In Acts 17:1–10, the birth of the Thessalonian church reveals that Jesus Christ, the **suffering**, and **risen KING**, **demands** our joyful allegiance, **transforms** lives through His gospel, and **empowers** us to stand firm under **internal** and **external** pressure.

1. Paul Arrives in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1)

- After preaching in Philippi Paul, Silas, and Timothy arrive undeterred in Thessalonica.
- Paul is led by the Spirit to proclaim the gospel in Thessalonica, a intentional location from where the Gospel can effectively spread.

2. Paul's Preaching in the Synagogue (Acts 17:2)

- The **power** of God's Word
- The **power** of a community of people bending themselves to His Word.
- The **power** of the Gospel

3. Power of God's Word (Acts 17:2b)

- Paul doesn't just preach; he **explains** and **proves** that the Messiah **had to suffer and rise**.
- Paul teaches through the Messiah's suffering and resurrection were God's plan all along. **Isaiah 52:13–14, Isaiah 53:5–6, Psalm 16:10**

4. The power of a community of people bending themselves to God's Word (Acts 17:3)

- Paul faithfully begins his ministry **in the synagogue**, underscoring the pivotal role of the Jewish community
- The Jews' **devotion, morality, & study of God's Word** created a powerful witness that attracted many Gentiles, known as "God-fearers."
- When Paul enters the synagogue, it is filled with a mixed crowd containing **many** gentile Greeks.
- God's redemptive plan is marching forward through flawed people.
- **The primary vehicle for moving God's truth into the world is HIS church**; But it is **not the church itself**, but the **message it proclaims!**

5. The Power of the Gospel (Acts 17:3,4)

- "Christ" = "Anointed One," the **promised King** from David's line (2 Samuel 7:12–13).
- Jesus is **The Sovereign KING**, this is central to Paul's message, **not only for the Jews, but the entire world**. Rom 1:16

6. The People's Response (Acts 17:4)

- **Some Jews** in the synagogue are persuaded.
- "**great many** Greeks" —Gentiles who worshipped God but weren't Jews—also believe.
- "**Not a few leading women**," = many, significant, a lot – of influential women of the city,
- The gospel unites people under the kingship of Christ. Gal 3:28

7. The Opposition Arises (Acts 17:5)

- Some Jews, stir up trouble recruiting hired thugs/rioters **Jealousy fuels this opposition** and flows out of the "religious community"
- The gospel threatens **control** and **status** and personal **comfort**.
- **God's plan of redemption has and will continue to move forward**. And it moves through the faithfulness of the Thessalonian church.

8. Persecution and the Bold Claim (Acts 17:6–9)

- Jason (who had welcomed the apostles) and other believers are accused of treason = explosive accusation
- But the believers **won't back down**; The church of Jews, Greeks, Men, Women, "**Receive the Word in much affliction... with joy... sound forth God's Word... their faith goes out everywhere** (1 Thes 1:3-7). And, **these are the believers** Paul sends a letter of **encouragement, inspiration**, and further **instruction** = 1 Thessalonians

APPLICATION:

1. **Proclaim the Gospel Boldly** - Proclaim Jesus as the Christ, in all areas of relationship and life
2. **Live in Unified Community** - Foster unity and relationships reflecting the gospel's power to bring people together.
3. **Stand Firm Under Pressure** - Remain steadfast in allegiance to Jesus hold fast to the truth of the gospel.
4. **Go Out Everywhere** - Live in a way that your words and actions proclaim the GLORY of Jesus Christ.