

Round the World in 80 days

Studies in Acts 17-20

1. Why Thessalonica? (v1)



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- **A strategic centre, v1**
- for the spread of the Gospel

*Paul - a great missionary
strategist*

*“The Lord’s message rang out
from you” 1 Thess 1.8*

- **DRBC**

*for the local community
and further afield!*

*gathered for worship, etc
- scattered for mission*

2. What approach? (vs 2-3)

- Paul reasoned from Scriptures
*his message was rooted
in God's Word, v2*
*synagogue attendance was
for evangelism 13.14-15*
*a natural point of contact
for fellow Jews*

- **The Scriptures: *a unique power to speak to hearts and minds***

***breathed out by God
for human beings***

2 Tim 3.15-16

***“salvation is through faith
in Christ Jesus”***

Scriptures have the power ...

- to accomplish God's purposes

Is 55.10-11

- to enlighten darkened minds

Psalm 119.130

- to create true understanding

- to penetrate hearts and minds

Heb 4.12

Paul reasoned with people

- explaining, proving

opening minds,

creating understanding

Luke 24.45

***Our faith must rest on facts
not just feelings***

2. What approach? (vs 2-3)

- Paul pointed to Jesus
as Saviour and King, v3
*“the Christ had to die
and rise to new life”*

- *our problem is sin Rom 3.23*
alienated from God Col 1.21
separated from God Is 59.2
dead, objects of God's wrath
Eph 2.1,3
sin: a personal affront to God
we can't make amends for it
- *God had to come to our rescue*
none other was good enough

- ***Jesus is God's Saviour-King***
to save us from our sins
Mat 1.20-21; Luke 2.10-11
John 1.29; 1 Cor 15.3
to be enthroned as our King
1 Peter 3.15

3. What reaction? (vs 4-9)

- Many believed and belonged v4
the Gospel is for all sorts!
believers should join together
be baptised
and added to the church
Acts 2.41

- **Others caused trouble v5-9**
 - *motivated by jealousy v5*
loss of popularity, income
1 Thess 2.3-5
 - *resorted to intimidation v5-6*
ganging up on believers
 - *engaged in slander vs6-7*
exaggeration, distortion
Luke 20.25

- **Paul had to flee**
 - *but the Church flourished*
 - 1 Thess 2.17; 3.5-10*