

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Acts 17:1-4, 10-12, 22-28

Sunday November 22, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. From today’s lesson, what is one possible reason some people persecute Christians?

They cannot defeat their teaching with their own arguments and ideas; therefore, they try to use intimidation or violence to silence them and eradicate their teachings.

2. What possible good can come from Christians suffering persecution?

Sometimes those persecuted will go someplace else to share the good news of Jesus. Paul left Thessalonica because of persecution and went to Berea, where he was able to lead many to faith in Jesus the Messiah.

3. How does a person’s character influence their response to the truth when they hear the truth?

If they are honest seekers of the truth so they can live according to the truth, they will be more responsive to the truth when they hear the truth. If they are practicing dishonesty and deception, they will not recognize or refuse to recognize and receive the truth when they hear it. Those with good character will be drawn to the truth; those without good character will sometimes be repelled by the truth and by those who speak the truth.

4. Think of the Bereans, what is one benefit from knowing the Scriptures and having access to a Bible?

Those who know the Bible and have access to a Bible should be better prepared to recognize errors or false teachings when they hear or read them inside or outside the church.

5. How did Paul's approach to unbelievers in the synagogues differ from his approach to unbelievers in the Areopagus?

To the Jews, Paul reasoned from the Scriptures, because both those in the synagogue and he recognized the authority of the Scriptures when he proclaimed the good news of Jesus in the synagogue. To the Gentiles, Paul proclaimed truths consistent with the Bible, but he did not refer to the Bible as an authority, because he knew the Greek unbelievers did not recognize the Bible as an authority. As they came to believe or after they believed, Paul could teach the Gentiles how what he proclaimed was in the Bible. In either case, the Holy Spirit worked through the truths of God that Paul proclaimed, which led unbelieving Jews and Gentiles to faith in Jesus Christ.

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