

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week June 22, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** The responses to work of God and the gospel going forth in Thessalonica and Berea.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 17:1 - 15

"The ambiguity of Christian teaching in this area remains. On the one hand, as Christian people, we are called to be conscientious and law-abiding citizens, not revolutionaries. On the other hand, the kingship of Jesus has unavoidable political implications, since, as his loyal subjects, we must refuse to give any ruler or ideology our supreme homage and total obedience which are due to him alone." **John Stott**

We have not faithfully proclaimed the gospel if we give out an easy message that dodges sin and lets the sinner continue as his own lord, "using" Jesus to make life more comfortable." **Steven J. Cole**

**Related Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:3 – 9, Romans 8:13 - 25

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Paul's first stop, in cities that have them, is to stop at the synagogue. Why would this be an effective ministry strategy?
- We're all certainly not preachers, so we may never have the opportunity to speak to large groups of listeners, but how can Paul's strategy also be used in our one-on-one conversations as well? (Reasoning, Explaining, Proving, Proclaiming)
  - What steps do you need to take in order to grow in your ability to reason and explain from the Scriptures?
  - What are the dangers in elevating our own emotions and experience over the authority of Scripture?
- Why were the Jews jealous of the response to the gospel? How is this response similar to that of the slave girl's owners in Acts 16:19?
- The big accusation brought against the brothers was that "they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." This is both true, but it's not necessarily the whole truth. How are we to live in this dichotomy between our temporary earthy home and our eternal heavenly

home? (Cf. Romans 13)

- Why is Jason's role in Thessalonica so important for Paul and Silas' ministry?
  - How do Jason and the other believer's actions show they have a good grasp on the gospel?  
How does them paying for Paul & Silas' safe exit point us back to the work Jesus?
- Why are the people in Berea more noble than those in Thessalonica?
- Discuss the relationship between eagerness and examination.
  - When have you been overly eager for something without full examination?
- Pastor Ricky hit on examining the things written and stated by others, but why must we also examine our own thoughts, ideas, and feelings through Scripture?
- Pastor Ricky talked about the 3 D's of critical thinking (Discover, Discern, Decide). How can we practically use these in everyday situations as well as in thinking through matters of theology?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus is indeed the Christ, the risen King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He has conquered sin and death, rejoice in that victory and proclaim the good news.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to give you're an eagerness for His word
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
- Pray for those who you know need Jesus, pray you would be used to minister to them

**Next Week's Text:** Acts 17:16 - 34