

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## Acts Series

These questions are for the **September 20, 2020** sermon, “Noble Thinking.” Please read the sermon passage (Acts 17:10-15) together out loud. **NOTE: Focus on question number 3.**

### Sermon Outline

NOBLE THINKING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST WILL BE MARKED BY . . .

1. Courageous mission (10)
  - a. Paul and Silas move from danger to danger as they faithfully proclaim Christ.
    - i. No matter the danger, they continue to believe and proclaim the Word of God.
    - ii. Suffering is the means by which we “fill up” Christ’s afflictions (Col 1:24)
  - b. Reasons that Paul and Silas can stay on mission with courage . . .
    - i. They know and value the Sender even more than life (Psalm 63:3)
    - ii. They love people and realize that God will bring people to himself!
    - iii. They are surrounded with support (like the “brothers” and each other).
2. Genuine Belief (11-12)
  - a. When proclaiming the Word of God, watch for these signs . . .
    - i. Receivers who are “open-minded” to receive and welcome Jesus.
    - ii. Receivers who are interested and want to “examine” the Word more fully.
    - iii. Receivers who will believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Promised Messiah.
  - b. Belief is not being intellectually satisfied.
  - c. Belief is receiving everything Christ said about himself (only Christ), holding nothing back (all of me).
3. Brief opposition (13-15)
  - a. Our opposition could be very heavy. And it could be for the rest of our lives.
  - b. But Paul describes it as “light and momentary” (2 Cor 4:17).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Discuss this: “Opposition may change our audience, but it will never change our mission.” Have you had some rejection? How do you wrestle to be faithful after being rejected or opposed? How has opposition changed your audience?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul and Silas had friends (“brothers” means “friends” in v. 10) and each other to keep them on mission and encouraged in the midst of danger and opposition. Who are your friends? Who is your Silas? Do you humble yourself? Do you ask for input from them? Who do you offer encouragement and counsel to?
3. Based on #2, above: Those you are evangelizing may go through these three steps of receiving the Word of God: 1) noble thinking which makes them welcome the Scripture; 2) examination which makes them study the Scripture; 3) belief which is the “all of me for all of Jesus” conversion we pray for. Do you know “receivers” of the gospel in each of these stages?
4. Based on #3, above: Though opposition can be violent or permanent, Paul describes it as light and momentary. All of your (light) struggles are preparing you for an eternal weight of glory (2 Cor 4:17). He lives with a constant focus on the real rewards of heaven which gives him strength to stay on mission on this earth. Do you? Tell us how you are doing.