

October 29, 2023  
Acts 16:35-17:4  
"Carry On"

## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

**"Preaching, Teaching, Proclaiming, Persuading, Reasoning"** carry on using the principles set forth in our pericope today. Some sow, some water, God gives the increase. See **I Corinthians 3:6-11**.

Philippi to Thessalonica is a 100 mile trip. The town of Amphipolis was about 33 miles, then on to Apollonia which was another 27 miles along the Via Egnatia, and then on to the large city of Thessalonica which boasted a population of about 200k. In this key city there was a synagogue. Paul had a strategy, go to places where the gospel would have the most impact on the most people and the most opportunity for the spread of the gospel. In God's plan he had a strategy to plant well grounded people in places where a church had been established. Determine your calling and, carry on.

Paul and company went to the synagogue there in Thessalonica for three weeks we are told; keep in mind they stayed in this town for a much longer time than this. In this metropolis there was a mixed bag of Jews and Gentiles, the synagogue was made up of such. In **I Thessalonians 1:9** one reads that many Gentiles believed during their stay. In this way we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, it takes the whole Word to get the whole picture. **I and II Thessalonians** give us a closer look into the ministry at Thessalonica while Luke gives a more panoramic view in his account here in the book of Acts. When one reads Paul's letter to the Thessalonians it is clear that a considerable amount of time passed between **vv 4 and 5** found in our text today.

At Thessalonica Paul reasoned with the Jews proving that Jesus was the Messiah. Lots of Jews were persuaded by Paul's OT expositions along with other God-fearing Gentiles. On the road to Emmaus Jesus began with Moses and the prophets and He interpreted from them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures, **Luke 24:27**.

### **Application:**

To be effective in sharing one's faith he/she must; meet people where they are, address the questions and doubts they have about our faith in Jesus. This will require a working knowledge of the Bible. Meditate on **II Timothy 2:15**. CARRY ON