

GOSPEL AND CULTURE

A MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Theophilus

Theos (Θεός) = God

Philos (φίλος) = Beloved, dear, friend

**In Greek, it means:
“One who loves God.”**

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

ACTS 1:8 KJV

Progress Report No. 1	“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)
Progress Report No. 2	“And the word of the Lord continued to spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.” (Acts 6:7)
Progress Report No. 3	“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were strengthened; and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” (Acts 9:31)
Progress Report No. 4	“But the word of the Lord grew and multiplied.” (Acts 12:24)
Progress Report No. 5	“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.” (Acts 16:5)
Progress Report No. 6	“So the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.” (Acts 19:20)
Progress Report No. 7	“Paul stayed there... welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” (Acts 28:30–31)

¹ Paul and Silas then traveled through the towns of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was Paul’s custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. ³ He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, “This Jesus I’m telling you about is the Messiah.”

ACTS 17:1–3 NLT

¹¹ And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. ¹² As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.

ACTS 17:11–12 NLT

WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES OF THE GOSPEL:

1. IN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. ¹⁷ He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

ACTS 17:16–17 NLT

WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES OF THE GOSPEL:

2. IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

¹⁷ He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. ¹⁸ He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.”

ACTS 17:17–18 NLT

WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES OF THE GOSPEL:

3. AMONG THE ELITE OF THE NATION

¹⁹ Then they took him to the high council of the city. “Come and tell us about this new teaching,” they said. ²⁰ “You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it’s all about.” ²¹ (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)

ACTS 17:19–21 NLT

“It is a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to.”

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*