

# REASONING with PEOPLE about JESUS

Pastor Dick Tennesen, March 14, 2004, Redwood Christian Center, Felton, CA

Acts 17:2-4 – INTRODUCTION:

Paul is the quintessential witness for Jesus, and gives us particularly good insights in this passage of Scripture. In Acts 17, Paul “reasons” with people. On the one hand, he doesn’t argue with them, yet he also does not back down from the truth. We would do well to learn from his example.

First, we see

## I. The SOURCE of Paul’s reasoning, v. 2 –

Paul was apparently following his normal procedure \_\_\_\_\_

Paul REASONED \_\_\_\_\_

His SOURCE was the SCRIPTURES \_\_\_\_\_

We’re reminded of Jesus’ words in Luke 24:44-47 \_\_\_\_\_

Like Paul’s, our reasoning needs to BEGIN and END with the words of Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

Second, we need to see

## II. The SUBJECT of Paul’s reasoning, v. 3

Our message must be CHRIST-CENTERED \_\_\_\_\_

The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus were the central points of Paul’s reasoning \_\_\_\_\_

Paul set before them TWO MAJOR PROCLAMATIONS:

1. That Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead. These are the TWO greatest NON-NEGOTIABLES of CHRISTIANITY  
•He had to DIE \_\_\_\_\_

•He had to RISE AGAIN \_\_\_\_\_

2. That the JESUS about whom Paul was telling them was the MESSIAH, the CHRIST -- the absolute essential IDENTITY of JESUS! \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, we need to see

## III. The STRENGTH of Paul’s reasoning, v. 4

This is the RESULT or the EFFECTIVENESS of Paul’s reasoning.

There were THREE GROUPS represented: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION:** Two more things flow from the strength:

1. The SENSE of Paul’s reasoning ~ what is YOUR RESPONSE?
2. The STING of Paul’s reasoning ~ opposition will follow!