



QA: Should Christians Protest in the Streets? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Should Christians protest in the street?

ANSWER:

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. **[1] But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, [2] took some of the evil men from the marketplace, [3] and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.** But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — Jesus." And **they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So [4] when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.** **(Acts 17:1-9)**

[1] Opposition to the success of Bible teaching is always motivated by "jealousy!" Paul may have been answering their false charges against him in **1 Thessalonians 2:3-10**. A good debate of the issue brings one clarity and closeness to the truth, whereas protests are designed to force ideas upon others.

[2] "Evil men from the marketplace" literally describes people who have nothing else to do but hang around amid the public. They have no scuples, purposes, or responsibilities, and that makes them the poster people of "evil." They could be illegal immigrants, homeless people, wanderers, or slackers of everykind, but they will take any "job" they are offered.

[3] "Mob" is literally "gathering people" only used here in the New Testament. People without purpose or truth, were gathered by wrongly- motivated people who lead them and spoke for them. A "mob" in the street will surely "set all the city in an uproar," or disturb public peace! This "tumult," has no consistency or truth, but is solely designed to create confusion. A "mob" may be called a "caravan," "protest," "demonstration," "march," or "rally," but the organizers are quoted as if they represent

the thinking of the whole "mob!"

[4] Why should "Jason and the rest" have to pay the "security" for a disturbance they did not create? Though accused of harboring those "who have turned the world upside down," and "acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus," the real trouble-makers were those opposing the truth, creating a mob in the streets, and attacking people they disagreed with!

This seems to be a "formula" followed even today. And the opposition doesn't have to be only against Christians, but can be against social or political opponents, as well! The answer is always, "Preach the Word of God."

— jtp11 11/4/2018