



Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on June 25th, 2023

Acts 17:16-21 (NASB)

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he observed that the city was full of idols. **17** So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles*, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be present. **18** And some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers as well were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What could this scavenger of tidbits want to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? **20** For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.” **21** (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

Acts 17:29-34 (NASB)

29 Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the Divine *Nature* is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought. **30** So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, **31** because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.”

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some *began* to scoff, but others said, “We shall hear from you again concerning this.” **33** So Paul went out from among them. **34** But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

DIGGING DEEPER

Does anything bother you when you about the town you live in? Go beyond simple politics, what about spiritually? Tell us about it:

Read Acts 17:16-21

With whom did Paul engage in discussions within the synagogue and marketplace?

What did the philosophers in Athens think of Paul's teaching about Jesus and the resurrection?

Is there anything admirable that these philosophers did for Paul?

Is there room for questions within Christianity? How can we best help those who have questions find the answers?

In what ways can we effectively communicate the gospel message to a culture that may be unfamiliar with Christian teachings?

Read Acts 17:22-31

What points did Paul make in his speech to the people of Athens?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Acts 17:32-34

How did the people respond to the message? Does that encourage you or discourage you?

How can we effectively engage with and respond to skepticism or opposition when sharing our faith with others?

How can we be more intentional in seeking opportunities to share the gospel, like Paul did in Athens?

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

