

# **Acts 17:23-34 – 6 September 2020**

## **“From Creator To Jesus Evangelism”**

### Introduction

- \*Paul has chosen Silas to return to the places Paul's already been to on his 1<sup>st</sup> trip, to strengthen them
- \*But then on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Trip Paul / Silas / Timothy are led of the Lord to continue into Macedonia of Europe (what is Greece today)
- \*Chap 17 they visited Thessalonica, Berea and then Athens...and we saw a pattern emerge regarding how they evangelize for Christ

When Paul evangelizes Jews, he uses the law of Moses to convince them of sin and that Jesus is the resurrected judge of sin. (Read John 15:22, Rom 3:19)

-----Every mouth may be STOPPED-----

We see today that even when Paul is witnessing to straight up heathen, he still convinces them of sin BUT he begins with the Creator God.

So we'll use the acronym of QUIET to even quiet the mouths of unbelievers that don't know the law of Moses.

## **Today, 5 points to give unbelievers in taking them from Creator to Jesus for salvation**

Let's begin in Vs 22-23 with Paul's opening message

Read Vs 22-23

1. Find something familiar or common to begin
2. Find a way to bring up the Creator
3. “Him declare I unto you”
  - a. Skeptics have said Paul was confused b/c there's no tie between the Greece (& Roman) worship of unknown god to any God of Israel.
  - b. And this is how they try to tell you your Bible is full of errors! Wow!
  - c. Paul's simply using this as a springboard!
  - d. B/c they already have room to believe more, let me tell you more!

# **1<sup>st</sup> Point in Creator to Jesus Evangelism is: The Creator is the Quintessential Being (Chap 17:24-25)**

Read Vs 24

1. God made everything, therefore He's not within it, but has to be beyond it.
  - a. You drive your Ford down the road, but Henry Ford isn't under the hood.
  - b. Thomas Edison isn't inside your light bulb.
2. People's hands can't make anything and call it a true representation of God physically.
  - a. When people come to Israel in days of Jesus, they would be amazed by 3 things.
    - i. A sea where no one sinks. A day where no one works. A temple where there is no god.
3. God cannot be w/i our full knowledge, b/c we're the created and He's the Creator.
  - a. He's in a different realm of existence.
  - b. Have you accepted that you'll never fully know all about God? (John 17:3)

## Read Vs 25

1. Not only is He not w/i creation, He doesn't need anything from w/i creation either.
  - a. He's not the needer, He's the Giver!
  - b. Anything we would give to Him, is only what He's already created and given to us!
2. If He doesn't need anything, what's He want?
  - a. He wants a free-will relationship with all that will.
  - b. He's already fully satisfied w/ His relationship w/i the trinity, but He's willing to have us into relationship as well.
  - c. So quintessential meaning "*the most perfect example of*" God demonstrates He's fully satisfied by Himself.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Point in Creator to Jesus Evangelism is: Understanding of God is all around us (Chap 17:26-28)**

Read Vs 26

1. All nations/cultures come from same Creator.
  - a. This is why we treat each other as special
  - b. We're all created in the image of God
  - c. Life is in the blood, not in the skin
2. God the Creator knows our times & limits
  - a. Even the fact that we're mortal & die is a testimony that there has to be something bigger than us, there's has to be an Eternal One.

Read Vs 26-28

1. We're all in the same boat, as His creation, we have a built-in desire to seek God before we die.
2. Knowledge of God is not “far from any of us”
  - a. Read Act 14:17 – There's a designed system all around us that speaks of a Creator.
  - b. Read Prov 8:1-4 – Although we can't know ALL of God, what we need is readily available

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Point in Creator to Jesus Evangelism is: Idolatry is sin needing repented of (Chap 17:29-30)**

Read Vs 29-30

1. We're His creation, we can't create Him in our own earthly image – that's idolatry!
  - a. Idolatry is misrepresenting God
  - b. We have to accept God as He reveals Himself to us, we don't get to create Him
2. We need to repent of our idolatry
  - a. Making God in our own way
  - b. This is the beginning of the Commandments of God.
3. Whatever the starting point (in this case – the Creator), the goal is to get to the conscience.
  - a. Bring conviction of sin based on what they already would agree is wrong and sinful.
  - b. A heady argument doesn't bring conviction
  - c. Drawing out the law that's written on the heart of man – now that brings conviction!

# **4<sup>th</sup> Point in Creator to Jesus Evangelism is: Emmanuel is the approved judge God the Creator has appointed to come (Chap 17:31)**

Read Vs 31

1. God will come and judge in righteousness
  - a. Purpose of repenting is to acknowledge to God that we're wrong and He's right
  - b. In what form will God the Creator judge?
    - i. Thru the perfect Godman, Who did what we couldn't do...live perfectly
2. God has marked out or appoint the man Jesus to be that Judge
  - a. God the Creator is right to judge His creation for our free-will rebellion, but how much more compassionate that He came to live this life, THEN judges us.
  - b. Like a boss that also cleaned tables before
3. God put His stamp of approval on Jesus by raising Him from the dead, leads to our 5<sup>th</sup> point...

## **5<sup>th</sup> Point in Creator to Jesus Evangelism is: His Triumph over death is the proof (Chap 17:32-34)**

Read Vs 32-34

1. They're not divided over something less
  - a. Which church to go to
2. The climax isn't that Jesus was a good person
  - a. Climax is that Jesus defeated death
3. The resurrection from the dead was the dividing factor.
  - a. There is power in a risen person!
  - b. Conquering death is the desire of us all!!
  - c. If there's Someone who knows how to conquer death, don't you want to know Him?
4. "Certain.... clave unto him"
  - a. These are the one who would find out that
    - i. Jesus was our payment on the cross
    - ii. Jesus has sent us the H.S. to guide us thru
    - iii. Jesus wants to bless us w/ all eternity

## Conclusion

So 5 points that take us from Creator to Jesus for salvation

1. **Quintessential Being is the Creator**
  - a. His power & nature is beyond, not w/i creation
2. **Understanding of God is all around us**
  - a. We can't know ALL of God, but He's chosen to reveal much of Himself to us!
3. **Idolatry is sin needing repented of**
  - a. Repent of taking authority over God by believing Him to be what we want
4. **Emmanuel is the approved judge God the Creator has appointed to come**
  - a. God our Judge has compassion on us b/c He became us – Emmanuel – God with us
5. **Triumph over death is the proof**
  - a. If He can defeat death, wouldn't we want to listen to Him?