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A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



**Paul gives us A Model of Gospel Engagement
and Gospel Content in a pluralistic society.**

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Paul gives us A Model of Gospel Engagement and Gospel Content.

¹⁴ The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea.

¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

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Gospel Engagement:

Lash Out or Reach Out

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17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

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Gospel Engagement:

Lash Out or Reach Out

Expect Cynicism and Interest.

¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

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19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”



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Gospel Engagement:

Lash Out or Reach Out

Expect Cynicism and Interest.

Establish a Point of Contact

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22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

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Paul moves from Gospel Engagement to Gospel Content.

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Paul moves from Gospel Engagement to Gospel Content.

The first thing Paul does is establish God's ownership of each of us.

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Consider this common dialog with a typical unbeliever.

Q- Do you believe in God?

A. Yes of course.

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Q- Do you believe in God?

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A.Everyone sins

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A.Everyone sins

Q- Do you believe God is angry over sin and our sin separates us from God?

A- I don't believe in a God like that, my God is a God of love!

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Paul moves from Gospel Engagement to Gospel Content.

The first thing Paul does is establish God's ownership of each of us.

In verse 24 he describes God as the Self-Sufficient Creator of the universe.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

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In verse 25 as the Sustainer of All Life

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

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In verse 26 God is the Ruler of the Nation's

²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

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The first thing Paul does is establish God's ownership of each of us.

In verses 28 He is the Father of Humanity

28 'We are his offspring.'

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The second thing Paul does is emphasize our responsibility and predicament under God.

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice

It will be a universal judgment.

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It will be a universal judgment.

It will be a thorough judgment.

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It will be a universal judgment.

It will be a thorough judgment.

It will be an inescapable judgment.

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“Some think it is an objectionable thing to scare people into heaven, but I think it is reasonable thing to scare people away from Hell.”

~Jonathan Edwards

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Paul moves from Gospel Engagement to Gospel Content.

Third thing Paul does is exalt Christ whose Death and Resurrection renders him the one and only Son of God our Savior and Judge.

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31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

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³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

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