

Sermon Discussion Questions

Acts 17:16-34

Sermon of 09/06/2015

INTRO: Context/Setting (vs. 16a)

1. What was the significance of Athens?
2. Who were the *Epicureans*, what did they believe, and how did they live?
3. Who were the *Stoics*, and what did they believe, and how did they live?
4. What is the relationship between “believe” and “how we live”?
5. What would you say is the prevailing philosophy of our day?

A. What did Paul SEE? (vs. 16c)

1. the nature of idolatry (Romans 1:18-23)
2. the universality of idolatry (What did Calvin say about the human heart?)
3. the result of idolatry
4. what are some examples of “evangelical idolatry”?

B. What did Paul FEEL? (vs. 16b)

1. What is the meaning of paroxymo (his spirit was provoked within him – ESV; distressed – NIV; deeply troubled – NLT)
2. The two primary emotions captured in this text are _____ and _____. Are these appropriate for us as we “see” our world?

A sense of ANGER because:

- *God’s holiness is violated
- *Human rebellion is the issue
- *People are OFFENDERS

A sense of SORROW because:

- *God’s love is not known
- *Human blindness is the issue
- *People are VICTIMS

3. What does it mean for you to wear your “gospel goggles” when you view others?
4. What does it mean to say: “The gospel train runs on both rails. To derail that train, you only need to remove either of those two rails”?
5. How has the gospel been “derailed” in our day? How have you derailed it?

6. What is meant by the comment: “The gospel, because it tells us all that we are sinners and exposes our idol of self-reliance, has a built in, inescapable offense inherent in it. As we communicate the gospel, we must be careful not to add to that offense through our own actions, attitudes, words, and tone.” In what ways have you/we “added to the offense” of the gospel?

C. What did Paul SAY? (vs. 22-31)

Note: How did Paul establish “common ground” with his audience? (vs. 23)

How can we establish “common ground” with our audience?

1. God is the (vs. 24a)
2. God is (vs. 24b, 25, 26)
3. God is (vs. 27)
4. God is (vs. 29)
5. God is (vs. 30a)
6. God is (vs. 30b, 31)

D. What were the three points of application in this sermon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.