

**CP — 11/5/23**

**Acts 17:22–34 - Paul's Message in Athens**

Sermon Outline

1. Where Paul Went
  - \*He went to where people were. (synagogue, marketplace)
  - \*He engaged people in their interests and pursuits.
2. What Paul Knew
  - \*He knew his environment. (Greek, pagan, did not use the Bible)
  - \*He knew his audience. (Epicureans thought God was far off; Stoics were self-sufficient)
  - \*He knew a way to engage them. (altar: "To the unknown god")
  - \*He knew the gospel.
3. What Paul Preached
  - \*Paul preached God's self-existence and character.
  - \*Paul preached people as created by God and for God.
  - \*Paul preached repentance and coming judgment. (Religious activity is not enough.)
  - \*Paul preached Jesus and the resurrection.

Application:

- \*We cannot wait for people to come to us; we must engage them with the gospel where they are.
- \*The gospel is true and sufficient to share in any situation with anyone at anytime.

Small Group Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Bible passage and message? What stood out to you?
2. Discuss the reasons why we often avoid people. How did Paul engage people where they were and what they were interested in? Why is this approach a good practice for us?
3. Discuss Paul's strategy in communicating at the Aeropagus. What did he know, and how did that shape his message? What are specific areas or ways that we can know for those we communicate with? What are some specific ways that we shape the message to them without changing it?
4. What stood out to you most from the content of Paul's message (17:24–31)? What was the response to his message? How was it different from Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea? Discuss.
5. Pray as a group for people in your lives that need to know Jesus and for the boldness and compassion to share with them while "in the midst." (17:22)