

The Gospel Confronts Our Culture

Acts 17:16-34

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1. What is the Christian response to this present world? We as Christians have one message, that message is Jesus the Christ of Nazareth.
2. How do we preach that message to our age?
 - a. We can learn from the apostles of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Paul preached this same message of deliverance, hope and eternal life.
3. The Bible says in Acts 17:2-4, “As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. ‘This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,’ he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.”
 - I. Paul Had a Passion For These People. Acts 17:16, “While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.”
 - A. If we do not recognize the lostness of our society, we will do nothing to save it.
 - B. We do not speak as Paul spoke because we do not feel as Paul felt.
 - II. Paul Began Where The People Were. Acts 17:17, “So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.”
 - A. To reach our culture we must first grab their attention and their interest.
 - B. The apostle Paul followed that pattern in reaching out to the pagans of his day.
 - III. Paul Presented A Profound Message. Acts 17:22, “Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.’”
 - A. What would you say if you were faced with this challenge?
 - B. Here is what Paul says about this real, living God of the universe.
 1. First, God is the creator of the universe. (24)
 2. Second, God is the sustainer of the universe. (25)
 3. Third, God is the ruler of all nations. (26)
 4. Fourth, Paul says God is the judge of the world. (30)
 - C. What was the result?
 - IV. So What Is The Message For Us Today?
 - A. First, this says we must preach the complete gospel of Christ.
 - B. Second, this says we must confront the false religions of our day.
 - C. Third, this says that we need to point people to the Gospel.
 - D. Fourth, this tells me that we really need to know what we believe and why. (1 Peter 3:15)