

Acts 17:16-34 - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-19-17

IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)**
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

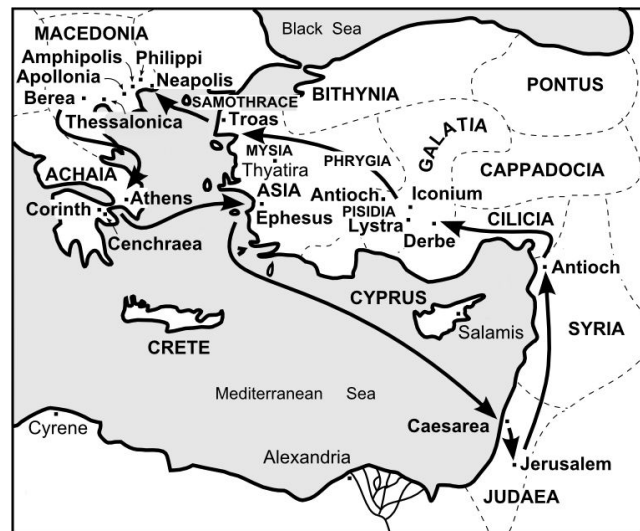
What Paul Did (vv. 17-21)

What Paul's reaction to Athens was NOT

- Just horror and indignation
- Despair
- Weep helplessly
- Curse and swear at the Athenians

What Paul's reaction to Athens WAS:

- _____ - "reasoning in the synagogue"
- _____ - "in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be present" and the philosophers
 - Righteous indignation resulted in open _____ of the truth



3 groups he interacted with:

- _____ and the _____ - _____ - on the Sabbath
- The _____ - the "downtown" of Athens "every day"
- "Epicurean and Stoic" _____ - competing contemporaries
 - Epicureans - Epicurus (died 270 BC)
 - Gods = _____, no interest in/influence upon human affairs
 - World was due to _____, no life after death, and no judgments
 - Live for _____ and its _____
 - Stoics - Zeno (died 265 BC)
 - From Gk. *stoa* - painted colonnade next to the *agora* where they hung out
 - _____ - everything is god, the world determined by fate, humans resigned to their duty to "god"
 - In summary:
 - E = chance, escape, enjoyment of pleasure
 - S = fatalism, submission, endurance of pain

Paul's amazing ease in the various sectors

- Today's religious place = the _____
- Today's *agora* = _____

- Today's Areopagus = the _____?

We must engage our culture at every level!

The response to Paul was _____

- _____ - 18b - "What would this idle babbler wish to say?"
 - Athenian slang
 - Lit. "seed-picker" - used of various seed-eating, scavenging birds.
 - Applied to human vagrants/beggars
 - Here described thinkers/teachers w/ no original idea of their own
 - Other translations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CEB - "amateur" ■ CSB - "ignorant show-off" ■ CEV - "know-it-all" ■ DLNT - "scavenger" ■ HCSB - "pseudo-intellectual" ■ ISV - "blabbermouth" ■ YLT - "seed-picker" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PHILLIPS - "cocksparrow" ■ MSG - "What an airhead!" ■ NLV - "This man has lots of little things to talk about." ■ AMP - this idle babbler [with his eclectic, scrap-heap learning] ■ NLT - "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?"
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 - Commentators:
 - "ignorant plagiarist"... "this charlatan" ... "this parrot" ... "this intellectual magpie"
- _____ - 18b - "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,'—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection."
 - "Strange deities" = foreign divinities ← plural???
 - "because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection"
 - A _____ god named "Jesus"
 - His _____ consort "Anastasis"
 - Both of Paul's speeches to Pagans in Acts began with misunderstandings
 - Athenians imagined 2 _____ gods
 - Lystrans imagined seeing 2 _____ gods

Vv. 19-21 - brought to the Areopagus

- Areopagus - lit. "the Hill (*pagos*) of Ares" - Gk. equivalent of Mars ("Mars Hill")
 - NW of the Acropolis
 - Formerly the court, now a council that guarded the city's religion, morals, and education.
 - Normally met under the Stoa Basileios ("Royal Porch") of the *agora*
- Was Paul brought to the actual hill, or just to the council, or both?
 - V. 22 - "So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus"
 - V. 33 - "So Paul went out of their midst."
- Was Paul's speech before the court a defense or a sermon?
 - V. 19 could be translated - "they took *hold of him*", yet context lacks judicial process
 - More like a formal inquiry of an education commission, deciding whether to censor him or let him continue preaching.