

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 24, 2020

Title: "Areopagus Eggheads versus a Seed-Picker"

Text: Acts 17:16-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Second Missionary Journey

SCRIPTURE: Acts 15:36-18:22; and DATE: A.D. 49-52

A. From Antioch to Troas (15:36-16:10)

B. Evangelism in Macedonia (16:11-17:15)

In Philippi (16:11-40); Thessalonica (17:1-9); and Berea (17:10-15)

C. Evangelism in Achaia (17:16-18:22)

In Athens (17:16-34), and in Corinth (for 18 months; 18:1-17)

2. The City of Athens

WHAT PAUL _____ (vs. 16)

The adjective used and translated "full of idols" communicates that Athens was "smothered with idols" or "swamped" by them. Roman satirist, Petronius, sarcastically remarked that 'it was easier to find a god in Athens than a man.'

WHAT PAUL _____ (vs. 16)

Paul could easily have been impressed (like a tourist) with was the beauty, the architecture, the art, the culture. But Paul arrived in the great city of Athens, not as a sightseer, but as a soul-winner. Instead of being impressed, the text says, "he was greatly distressed" (lit. "provoked").

WHAT PAUL _____ (vv. 17-18)

"He was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection" (ver. 18). He preached the gospel in the synagogue and in the marketplace (Gk. **agora**)

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Thoughts on idolatry from Paul Tripp's in his book, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands (2002).

1. Everyone is a _____ (Genesis 1, 2)

If God is not ruling my heart, someone or something else will.

2. There are two kinds of idols: _____ and _____.

3. Romans 1 is helpful here. It is probably Scripture's best analysis of the nature & effects of sin. Paul presents the core of our struggle as a " _____ " (Rom. 1:21-23, 25).
 - A. Sin is fundamentally _____.
 - B. At its core, sin is moral _____.
It steals the worship that rightly belongs to God & gives it to someone or something else. Every sinner is in some way a worship thief.
 - C. At its core, sin is also spiritual _____.
It takes the love that belongs to God alone & gives it to someone or something else. It's a life shaped by the satisfaction of cravings, rather than by heartfelt commitment and faithfulness. Every sinner is in some way a spiritual adulterer.
4. My choices & actions always reveal the desires that rule my heart. This principle has applications for personal growth and ministry.
 - A. Our hearts are always being ruled by someone or something.
 - B. The most important quest. to ask when examining the heart is, "What is fundamentally ruling my heart in this situation?"
 - C. Whatever controls my heart will control my responses to situations and people (vehicle or obstacle).
 - D. God changes us not just by teaching us to do different things, but by recapturing our hearts to serve him alone.
 - E. The deep. issues of the human struggle are not issues of pain and suffering, but the issue of worship, because what rules our hearts will control the way we respond to both suffering and blessing.