

Acts 17: 22-34

Athens- Greek intellectual city, pagan worship- more gods than men on wrote

We are going to see some helpful things about witnessing here, some positive some not so positive.

v.16-17 his spirit was provoked SO he reasoned-he didn't reason just to do it but because he had a burden for the people

- we will really only be effective if we pray first for that burden, when we see the need

v.18 Epicurean philosophy

v.22 religious people, seekers

- see *Romans 1 for witness to all*

v.26 these people felt that they were the elite

v.30 times of ignorance- see *Romans 2 about forbearance*

v.30-32 Although Paul dances around the gospel, he doesn't present it

Three responses

- some mocked
- some procrastinated
- some believed

We don't see the effect of other cities, Paul doesn't deal in the power of the gospel. The power of the Word of God. If we try to be so culturally relevant that we are afraid of offending anyone, we will see some results but not "turning the world upside down"

Turn to 1 Cor.1 Corinthians 1: 18

v.18 message of the cross

- Jesus- the sinless, perfect lamb of God, God incarnate, died for our sins
- once and for all atonement
- there is no other way
- the purpose of the cross was not to be an example
- it was not to provide us a way that we could now walk holy

- it was to redeem lost sinners in the way that only His death could do

To those who are perishing or those who are lost it is foolishness has no meaning.

To those who are being saved it is the power of God

v.19-20 wisdom- man's wisdom and philosophy is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there.

v.22 seek a sign- no sign but that of Jonah, Jesus says
- want some outward manifestation

v.30 He became for us

- wisdom from God- it will go on to talk about this next week as we study chapter 2

- righteousness- He is our righteousness, we are holy and blameless in Him

- sanctification- we are set apart

- redemption

Chapter 2

v.1 Paul was a pharisee of pharisees, a teacher of the law, an eloquent man

v.2 determined to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified

v.3 weakness, fear and trembling not because of fear of man but because of the awesomeness of what he is doing

v.4-5 it is not that Paul's speech was not persuasive but that was not where the power came from

- power of God-

Paul is not writing this section as a theological treatise on salvation but on how to deal with the problems in the church. How to minister the cross, preach the cross, to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified