

Sermon Scripture Passage: Acts 17:22-34

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Scripture References:

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 10:34-35 – So Peter... said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Acts 11:19-21 – Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

Acts 17:16, 18-19 – While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols... 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him... 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

East Glenville Church – Sermon Notes Handout – January 22nd 2023

The Big Story of the Bible: Part Two #8 – Acts 17:22-34 – The Spread of the Church

Question: When have you had a chance to tell a non-believer about your faith in Christ?

Acts 17:20 Paul is invited to speak at the Areopagus also known as _____ Hill in Athens

17:16 Paul is _____ about all the idols and temples to pagan gods in the city.

17:23 *How does Paul use what he saw to gain an opening for sharing about God?*

17:24 God gave us _____, He does not need human hands to _____ Him

17:27 God's intent is that we would seek after Him, because He is not _____ from us.

17:30 God overlooked idol worship in the past. Now we need to _____ our _____

17:31 *Paul focused on God, what is the one truth about Jesus that he proclaims?*

17:32 Some of the Athenians _____ at Paul, but a few came to eventually believe.

The Book of Acts tells the story of the Spread of the Church

Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit is the _____ force behind the growth of the church.

Acts 2 At the coming of the Spirit, the disciples praised God in many different _____

Acts 8:1 It was _____ that spurred the message to go out beyond Jerusalem

Acts 10:34-35 Peter finally _____ it is OK to tell non-Jews about salvation in Jesus.

Acts 11:20-21 Believers actually start sharing the message with _____ or Greeks

Acts 13:2 _____ and Paul are sent on the first organized outreach to the Greek cities.

The Holy Spirit within us is not just for our _____ but will spur us to bear witness to Jesus

Answers for the blanks:

- Mars
- Distressed
- Life and breath
- Serve
- Far
- Change our thinking
- Sneered / mocked
- Driving
- Languages
- Persecution
- Realizes
- Hellenists
- Barnabas
- Benefit