

While You're Waiting - Phud 9-1-24-1

While You're Waiting - Tourist or Missionary?

Acts 17:16-34

1 Group

Acts 17:16a

“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens...”

2

2 Corinthians 11:23 - 28

[23] Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one— I am talking like a madman— with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. [24] Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

3

2 Corinthians 11:23 - 28

[25] Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; [26] on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;

4

2 Corinthians 11:23 - 28

[27] in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. [28] And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

5

Acts 17:16b

“his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols”

6

How to Reach Athens

- 1) Gospel Heart: Be provoked in our heart by the idolatry in our world. (v. 16)

7

“It would be hell to me that Christ be always dishonored by idolatry, I could not endure existence if Jesus be not glorified”

Henry Martyn

8

Acts 17:17 - 18

[17] So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

9

Acts 17:17 - 18

[18] Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities" — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

10

How to Reach Athens

- 1) Gospel Heart: Be provoked in our heart by the idolatry in our world. (v. 16)
- 2) Gospel Calling: Go to the “synagogues” (religious) and the “marketplace” (pagans) to reach those who do not know Jesus. (v. 17-18)
- 3) Gospel Bridges: Use all available Gospel Bridges in order to make a contact point for the gospel. (v. 18-29)

11

Gospel Bridges

- A) We must use patient persuasion with people to truly reach them. (v. 17 – “reasoned”, v. 18 – “conversed”)
- B) Understand their worldview in order to lovingly correct it to a Christian worldview. (v. 22-23)
- C) Use apologetics as a means to evangelism. (v. 23-27)
- D) Use your (discerning) knowledge of the culture and quote “poetry” they are familiar with showing God seeks us out. (v. 28-29)

12

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13

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14

Acts 17:22 - 23

[22] So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. [23] For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

15

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16

Acts 17:24 - 27

[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

17

Acts 17:24 - 27

[26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

18

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- C) Use apologetics as a means to evangelism. (v. 24-27)

19

Acts 17:28 - 29

[28] for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” [29] Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

20

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- C) Use apologetics as a means to evangelism. (v. 24-27)
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21

Acts 17:31 - 32

[30] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
[31] because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

22

How to Reach Athens

- 4) Gospel Clarity: Preach the Gospel of Repentance. Tell them that God commands all to repent and turn from our sin. (v. 30-31)

23

Acts 17:32 - 34

[32] Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." [33] So Paul went out from their midst. [34] But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

24

How to Reach Athens

- 4) Gospel Clarity: Preach the Gospel of Repentance. Tell them that God commands all to repent and turn from our sin. (v. 30-31)
- 5) Gospel Response: Some will mock, some will want more information, and some will Believe! (v. 32-34)

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