

Acts 17:16-18:1

Destroying Idols in Athens

(and America)

Sermon Notes for October 13, 2013, by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

Intro - Paul's Gospel and His Presentation Methods

Discern, Expose, Destroy (Tim Keller, Gospel Coalition)

The Church (Acts 13), Uneducated Pagans (Acts 14), Educated Pagans (Acts 17)

I. The Occasion of Paul's Talk on Mars Hill (v. 16-21)

A. Being Angered by the Idolatry of Athens (v. 16)

God Swapping, Statism and the Affordable Care Act

B. Paul Dialogue with the Church & the Citizenry (v. 17)

Culpability is There - Judgment Begins at the House of God

Support for Evangelism Is There Too

C. Bringing a Greater Opportunity for the Gospel (v. 18-21)

II. The Substance of Paul's Talk on Mars Hill (v. 22-31)

A. Theology

Begins Politely

Athenian Ignorance vs. Christian Knowledge of God (v. 22,23)

Begins w/Genesis

Creation, Sovereignty, Transcendence, Goodness of Physical -
Ends the Same Way!

Moves to Aseity, then Providence and Sustenance

Via Sustenance to Immanence and History

B. Anthropology

The Alienation of Man (Uses Hellenistic Poets Positively)

Athenians (and all men) Culpability for Their Ignorance & Any Form of Idolatry

Athenians Should Repent (for Idolatry, not "Sin")

C. Eschatology

God's Judgment of the Athenians by Jesus Is At Hand (v. 31a)

The Historical Fact of Christ's Resurrection is Proof of Impending Judgment (v. 31b)

III. The Effect of Paul's Talk on Mars Hill (v. 32-34)

A. Some Don't Believe (v. 32,33)

B. Others Do (v. 34)

"Certain" or "Some" not "Few"

First, they follow Paul, then they believe.

2 Tim. 2:120 - "for the sake of the elect"

Six Questions From the Text

1. What authorities does Paul cite indirectly? Which ones directly?

2. Do the subjects of your evangelism know the structure by which the "Gospel" can be known?

3. Does Paul use a "story" to present the Gospel?

4. Are any unsaved people following you?

5. Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Transcendence, Immanence, Judge - Which of these attributes of God do you need to study more, so that you can speak of them to your neighbors and friends?

6. Discern, Expose, Destroy - which of these actions towards idolatry do you most need help doing?