

The Gospel In Every Arena!

Acts 17:16-34

Sermon Series: The Big Give, Pt. 2

November 9, 2014

1 Peter 3:15, *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...*

Three Things You Need To Share Your Faith:

- ***Be CERTAIN About What You Believe***
- ***Be AWARE Of What Others Believe***
- ***Be PREPARED To Share Your Faith***

Note The Places Paul Shared His Faith:

Acts 17:16, *While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹Then 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? ²⁰You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*

- ***In The Place Of WORSHIP***
- ***In The MARKETPLACE***
- ***At The Local THINK-TANK***

Note The Points Of Paul's Message:

• **He Started With The FAMILIAR IDOLS**

Acts 17:22, *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. ²³For 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.*

• **He Described The One True God Who Is Both CREATOR AND RELATIONAL**

Acts 17:24, *"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. ²⁵And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From 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. ²⁷God 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.'*

• **He Pointed To The Resurrection As PROOF**

Acts 17:29, *"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. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For 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."*

Note The Three Responses:

Acts 17:32, *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." ³³At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴Some 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.*

- ***Some REJECTED The Gospel***
- ***Some Were OPEN MINDED***
- ***Some FOLLOWED And BELIEVED***