

Are You Bothered Enough To Share Christ?

Acts 17:16-34

January 10, 2021

KEY VERSE: "Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18b)

1. A sensitive heart is bothered by worthless **idols** (16-21)
 - a. **Engaging** people where they are
 - Synagogue—Jews and God-fearing Greeks "seekers"
 - Marketplace—people going about **business**
 - Epicurean, serving appetite and Stoics, serving reason
 - b. Entering dialogue that **questions** cultural beliefs
 - anti-supernatural = naturalism; science of cause / effect
 - everything is relative; time-bound; *and*, truth is up to you
2. A bothered heart is bold to share **Christ** (22-31)
 - a. Tactfully (see Matt. 10:16) point out the obvious
 - b. Eight evangelistic assertions about God
 - i. Creator; the unmade **Maker** of All (Isa. 42:5)
 - ii. Unlimited Lord; cannot be contained (Acts 7:48)
 - iii. Gracious Giver; needs **nothing** (Ps. 50:9-12)
 - iv. **Designer** ; human race is His idea (Gen. 2:7)
 - v. Life Source; not hidden or far away (Job 12:10)
 - vi. Eternal **Father** ; not in our image (Isa. 40:18-20)
 - vii. Merciful Master; "Repent now!" (Luke 24:47)
 - viii. Resurrected, righteous **Judge** (Acts 10:39-43)
3. A sharing heart will meet mixed reactions (32-34)
 - a. **Sneering** , dismissive
 - b. Open to hear **more** another time
 - c. **Believing** , men, one woman and others

On Your Own (better with others)

- 1) What bothers you about the culture around you?
- 2) How can you use that as a bridge to talk with people about spiritual things—the good news about Jesus and the resurrection?
- 3) Which word would you use to describe Paul's attitude and tone towards the people he talked with in Athens? (choose one below and explain your choice)
 - Condescending
 - Condemning
 - Compassionate
 - Confrontational
 - _____ (your word)
- 4) Does Paul's method of intellectual evangelism fit with your personality, experience and style? Why or why not?
- 5) Tell of an experience you've had in the past six months when you engaged someone in a spiritual conversation.
- 6) Pray for someone you love to have a spiritual conversation with you this next week.