

Paul Preaches the Gospel in Athens (Acts 17:16-21) part I

Acts 17:1-16 the Gospel advances into the pagan world

- i. Paul and Silas in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)
- ii. Paul and Silas in Berea (17:10-15)

Thessalonian believers turned from idols to Jesus: saved from wrath

I. What did Paul See? (17:16a)

“Paul’s spirit was provoked...he saw the city was given over to idols”

Athens was the intellectual and cultural capital of the ancient world

II. What was Paul’s Response – His Reaction (17:6b)

“Paul was provoked” stirred up with anger & jealousy for God’s glory

We should be provoked to jealousy for the glory of God (Matt 18:18-20)

III. What did Paul Do? What was His Response? (17:17-21)

Paul’s horror & dismay over idols also had a positive effect: He witnessed

Paul spoke first to the Jews and God fearers

He would have met with them & spoken in the synagogue on the Sabbath

Paul spoke to the people on the street

Paul walked about speaking to anyone who would speak to him

Paul spoke to the Epicureans

Life is random: no life after death, people should live for life’s experiences

Paul spoke to the Stoics

Cannot avoid pain & suffering – grin & bear it – can’t expect too much