

## PAUL IS TAKEN TO THE AREOPAGUS - Acts 17:19-21

031322A

### INTRODUCTION

1. Review: where we are in series & where we are in Athens - A 17:15-18

- i. idolatry - *provoked spirit*
- ii. Synagogue - 17:2-3 following days in agora
- iii. Grk Philosophers listen in & insult Paul - confused: v18c *he was preaching Jesus & the resurrection.*

### 1st: Paul is Taken to the Areopagus - v19a

1. *Areopagus - Mars Hill*. God of war: Court scene.: not a guest speaker at a seminar - *they took him & brought him*: forceful. Paul must defend himself.

2. Remember - *b/c he was preaching Jesus & the resurrection* [v18].

### 2nd: Areopagus: The Arrogant Idolatry of Knowledge -19b-21

1. Paul moves from popularized paganism to philosophical paganism. Eph 2:1-2: *lusts of flesh* [sensuality] & *of mind* [speculations]

2. Arthur Hunt, *The Vanishing Word: The Veneration of Visual Imagery in the PostModern World*, Crossway, 2003, p177.

3. Athens = waning glory - protective of what yet remained.

4. Reason for Paul taken to Areopagus? Intellectual curiosity: supposedly.

- i. *may we know* [v19]; *we want to know* [v20]

ii. interest in the *new: new teaching* [v19]; *smthg new* [v21].

iii. [v18] perplexed by *preaching*; [v19] focus on *proclaiming*; [v20] thgs brought to *their ears*; [v21] *telling & hearing*.

iv. Athens' statues were for visual paganism. Areop knew better. There's was a paganism of ideas. v21- *new & strange things* - [v18] *strange deities* [Jesus & female consort: "Anastasis"]; [v21] *Athenians & strangers* - foreigners.

5. Paul asked to *speak - v19b's proclaim* is dif/ term than *proclaim* [preach] in v18 & 23. The term in v19 is common word: speaking, saying. [v18]

i. v19 *a new teaching - Jesus & the resurrection.*

ii. What Paul *says* [v22ff] - not conversational chat; *stood & asserted, affirmed, declare* = defends truth of *Jesus & the resurrection.*

### Applic #1: Perceive Paul's Purpose in a Pagan Culture

1. Some views re: Paul's purpose: affirm, transform Athens? [See 1Tim 2:10].

2. How Christians interact w/ culture is big discussion. Our topic: Apostles preached Jesus' resurrection. Church as salt & light. Society responds in a spectrum of ways: acceptance, toleration, indifference & opposition. Our mandate is not determined according to society's response.

3. See what Paul did in Athens - reasoned in synagogue & preached Jesus & the resurrection. Purpose to call elect to Christ & form church.

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**Applic #2: Be Faithful to the Gospel in Face of Pagan Ignorance of God**

1. Xn scholars susceptible.
  
2. Corinthian esteem for *wisdom*: 1C 1:18-25.
  
3. What got Paul *taken & brought* to Areopagus? *He was preaching [gospeling] Jesus & the resurrection.*