

Subject: *What Every Person Needs to Know*

Scripture: *Acts 17:16-34*

Paul was in Athens. It was a city full of religion (vs. 16), of both Jews and Gentiles (vs. 17). It was a city full of knowledge (vs. 18-21), and the philosophers gathered on Mars Hill, spending all their time in talking and listening to the latest ideas and teachings. It was here that God sent Paul to tell them what every person needs to know. The people of Athens were only interested in hearing “what’s new,” but Paul was committed to telling them “what’s true.”

1. Every person needs to know about GOD

- A. He is the God who can be known
- B. He is the one and only true God (vs. 23)
- C. He is the powerful Creator (vs. 24a)
- D. He is the unlimited God (vs. 24b)
- E. He is the self-sufficient God (vs. 25a)
- F. He is the faithful Provider (vs. 25b)
- G. He is the sovereign Lord (vs. 26)

2. Every person needs to know about SIN AND REPENTANCE

- A. The sin of not seeking God (vs. 27) – We should seek God, but we don’t.

Romans 3:10-11 ¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

As Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:4, they are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”

- B. The sin of not honoring God (vs. 28-29) – We should honor God as our Creator and Sustainer, but we don’t.

Psalms 100:3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

The most common sins and the greatest sins of all are breaking the first two of the Ten Commandments: 1) Thou shalt have no other gods before me (instead of me, in place of me); and 2) Thou shalt make unto thee any graven image. The first two commandments are warning to honor the one true God as the only God, and to worship God as He is and not as we want Him to be.

- C. The sin of not knowing God (vs. 30) – Paul refers to this as “times of ignorance.” The people of Athens were intelligent in some ways, but they were ignorant about God. And like Paul said in Romans 1, their ignorance was inexcusable.

Romans 1:20-23 ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

- D. God’s command to repent

It is a present command (“now). It is a worldwide command (“all people everywhere”). It is a clear command (“repent”). To repent is to have a change of mind along with a change of attitude along with a change of action.

Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

3. Every person needs to know about JUDGMENT

- A. The certainty of judgment

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

- B. The scope of judgment

Everyone will be judged.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

- C. The standard of judgment

Psalms 96:12-13 ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice ¹³ Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

- D. The appointed judge

John 5:22-23 ²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: ²³ That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.

4. Every person needs to know about SALVATION

The bad news is that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).
The bad news is that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

The good news is that Christ died for our sins and rose again to prove that His death was enough to satisfy the righteous demands of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Romans 10:9-10⁹ *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*¹⁰ *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

The bad news is that we have all sinned. We have all broken God's law and we stand condemned. The good news is that Christ, the one who is appointed to be the judge, has died for our sin.

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

That's what every person needs to know...

1. They need to know about God
2. They need to know about sin and repentance
3. They need to know about judgment
4. They need to know about salvation

At the end of Paul's message we see three different reactions: Some mocked. Some agreed to hear Paul again. Some believed. Like Paul, we are responsible for telling people the truth. They are responsible for what they do with it.