

Athens – A City Full of Idols

1. Spiritual Battle in Dark Places Requires Extra Effort (16-17).

2. The Gospel of Jesus Necessarily Divides (18-21).

3. Don't Give Up When Others Misunderstand the Gospel.

CONCLUSION: Life can be so difficult. Sometimes it is simply overwhelming. Yet, we know how this all ends. We know the certainty of King Jesus' victory that is secured in His resurrection. It is a truth that necessarily divides, but we must remain vigilant. The world around us misunderstands His resurrection and sadly often so do we. Let us renew our minds with the truth of His Word. In this spiritual darkness let us live in light of our King's victory and declare it to all whom God puts in our path.

John 11: 23 – 27

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the *resurrection on the last day*.” Jesus said to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life*. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; *I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world*.”

Second Kings 6: 15 – 19

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” *So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man*, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. ¹⁹ And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

Mark 13: 9 – 27

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Have you ever been in a place of profound spiritual darkness? Paul was provoked within his spirit because of the preponderance of idols throughout Athens. This was a place full of evil. But he didn't just shrug his shoulders or leave. He talked more about Jesus and the victory of His resurrection. How can we learn from him this week?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Romans 12:1-2; John 11:23-27; Mark 13:9-27.** DISCUSS, How does spiritual warfare affect your daily life? Be specific. How are we presenting Christ specifically to our culture? How does the certainty of His resurrection embolden, comfort, and encourage you? PRAY "Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering death in Your resurrection. Help us to see the certainty of that victory."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at 6:00 pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Second Kings 6:15-19; 2 Peter 1:16-21.** DISCUSS, What is the spiritual climate where you live? Where you work? In your extended family? How does this spiritual climate affect your talking about Jesus and His resurrection? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY "Resurrected King, thank You for conquering death. Enable me to live in Your power."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; John 11:23-27; Romans 12:1-2.** DISCUSS: How do you understand the resurrection of Jesus? How does that compare to the Bible? How do we realign ourselves to the truth of Scripture? What would you do differently if you were completely confident of Christ's resurrection? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways that we doubt You. Teach us to trust You entirely. Change our lives to conform to Your absolute truth."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Mark 13:9-27; Romans 1:4-6**. DISCUSS, Why does Christ's resurrection necessarily bring such conflict? How do we reconcile this with our dread of conflict? How can we be faithful to our King? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "King Jesus, teach us to trust in You. Work in us so that we live out the reality of Your resurrection every day."

Thursday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; First Corinthians 15:35-58; Romans 6:5-11** DISCUSS, How is our certainty of Christ's resurrection displayed in our daily life? Repent of ways that we fall short. What about His return are you especially looking forward to and why? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "King Jesus, Your resurrection really is our only hope. Help us to live like that."

Friday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Romans 12:1-2; John 11:23-27; Mark 13:9-27**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "Risen, Glorious King, You are worthy of all praise, glory, and delight. We long to give You what You deserve with all of our lives. Work in us to make that so. Amen."

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 17:1-34**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Romans 12: 1 – 2

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but *be transformed by the renewal of your mind*, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."