

Calling the Lost Back Home

Acts 17:16-34

July 18, 2021

Idolatry bothered Paul. Unbelief troubled Paul.

Paul could not wait for Silas and Timothy. He had to speak.

What is a seed picker?

Socrates was condemned for “corrupting ... morals” and “introducing new deities”

Mankind has been seeking a way to cope with life without God.

Men wandered further and further from Eden, from the presence of God.

What is our mutually agreed upon suppression of the truth?

What is Epicureanism?

What is Stoicism?

What are the reigning philosophies and world-views of our day?

How does Paul address them?

His goal is to call them to repentance. He starts by calling them ignorant.

God made the world and everything in it.

Why does he mention creation?

Because of their idolatry.

God alone is self-sufficient, he has life in himself. You don't.

God sustains the life that he has created.

God fashioned all the nations from one man, Adam.

Why does Paul quote non-believers?

Homer tells of the giant one-eyed Cyclops that had captured Odysseus.

God has created, sustained and ordered all things in order that you might seek Him!!

Paul is taking them as far as natural revelation can take them.

God, in the past, tolerated this ignorance. But no more.

Your ignorance of the true God was culpable before, now it is inexcusable. (FF Bruce)

God has declared himself to you in Jesus Christ. He has made himself known to you.

Jesus is the Judge

Responses to the Gospel Call

Some mocked. Some delayed. Some believed.

Does Idolatry bother us?

We need to engage the culture, not retreat from it.

We need to speak basic Scriptural truth into the confused world.

Your ignorance of God is culpable. You must repent.