

# PAUL'S EVANGELISTIC EXAMPLE

Acts 17:16-34

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PASTOR MIKE NAZARIAN | October 19–21, 2018

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?

<sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by

human hands, as though He needed anything, since He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for

*“In Him we live and move and have our being”;*

*as even some of your own poets have said,*

*“For we are indeed His offspring.”*

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## **I. We Must See as Paul Saw**

*What was it that struck Paul about Athens?*

## **II. We Must Feel as Paul Felt**

*What did Paul feel in response to what he saw?*

*How does Paul's response instruct us today?*

## **III. We Must Do as Paul Did**

*What strategy does Paul employ to earn an evangelistic voice in Athens?*

*How does Paul's strategy instruct us today?*

#### **IV. We Must Speak as Paul Spoke**

*How did Paul meet the Athenians where they were at in his sermon on Mars Hill?*

*How does Paul's evangelistic strategy instruct us today?*

#### **V. We Must Trust as Paul Trusted**

*Does Paul's ministry in Athens seem successful?*

*What should be our primary focus as Gospel messengers?*