

The Book of Acts

Acts 17:22-34

Introduction

One way that Grandmasters in chess prove their skill is their ability to play multiple games at the same time. They will walk around to four or five different opponents with different boards and different strategies and manage to beat them all. This is akin to what Paul is doing here. In presenting the gospel at the Areopagus, Paul sets out to convince not just a foreign pagan culture of Jesus' worth, but he tackles multiple philosophies as well. He invites both the Epicureans and the Stoics to consider the good news.

Discussion Questions

1. **Discussion Questions** 1. What is the difference between someone who claims to be atheist and someone who claims to be agnostic? Do those who claim agnosticism hope to find God, or are they satisfied that there isn't enough evidence to ever really know?
2. **Read Acts 17:22-23.** What does Paul mean by stating that he knows the Athenians are very religious people? If you're the type of agnostic who believes that one day there might be enough evidence to really know God, Paul is saying he has the evidence. Why did God leave so many in ignorance for so long?
3. **Read Acts 17:24-28.** In this passage Paul is calling into question their practice of idol worship and sacrifice. What evidence does he present to support this claim? Epicureans believed the gods were distant and didn't care about us, and we should lead a humble, balanced life that didn't involve gods at all. Stoics believed we all had a little god inside us, and that goodness or virtue should be harnessed to live the best life possible. How did he speak to each philosophy in his message at the Areopagus?
4. **Read Acts 17:29-34.** Paul says the time of ignorance is over. Jesus came and revealed the missing pieces and it's our job to spread the news. It's your job to respond. The time for sitting on the fence is over. Talk about the different ways that Jesus' arrival and resurrection set up a whole new time period. What are the major differences to the world before and after Jesus?
5. His last statement regarding Jesus' resurrection being the cornerstone to all this change was by far the most shocking. The Areopagus was a place of reason. They didn't agree on much, but the one thing everyone did agree with was that death was final. How do you overcome a hurdle like this when the very mention of resurrection could cause everything you say to be dismissed? Has believing in the resurrection of Jesus ever been a major hurdle for you? Talk about the experience.

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Sunday, September 11th
Lunch served at 12:30 PM
Flower Arranging begins at 1 PM
Price: \$20/person

Join us on Sunday, September 11th at 12:30 PM for lunch and flower arranging with Wild Blooms Upick Flower Farm. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 7th at 2 PM so we can have enough food and flowers for everyone! Please RSVP to info@wabashfriends.org or call (260)563-8452. Thank you!



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EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
KALEO ACADEMY &
INDIANA YEARLY MEETING

Invite College-Aged Students & Adults to:

FRIENDS STUDENT GATHERING
at



December 28th, 2022 – January 1st, 2023
Indianapolis, IN



SCAN ME

Plan to join us! More information at:

<https://sites.google.com/barclaycollege.edu/fsgurbana2022>

Contact Katy Moran at Kaleo Academy with questions.
katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu



Kids Hope Mentors
Needed

Kids Hope is seeking individuals to spend time mentoring a student at Southwood Elementary one hour a week through the school year. If you desire to make an impact on a student's life and be a support for them, please contact Sheri Proffitt at sheriproffitt@hotmail.com.

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