

Acts^{vol. 5} THE CHURCH EXPANDING



Corresponds with 2/26/23 Sermon

Acts 17:16-34

Big Idea: The Christian is not called to hide from culture, but to engage it.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read Acts 17:16-34

- What compelled Paul to his ministry in Athens?
- What are some characteristics of the Athenians and their culture?
- What tactics did Paul use when sharing with the Athenians at the Areopagus?
- What does this passage tell us about God, His Character, and His purpose?
- What are the different responses of the Athenians to Paul's message?

Epicureanism

Greek philosophy that believed only the material world and that personal pleasure was life's purpose.

Stoicism

Greek philosophy of virtue, self-control and logic that opposed epicureanism.



GETTING PRACTICAL

1. What are some similarities in our culture today and the culture that we saw in Athens? What are some differences?
2. Culture that we perceive on social media and the news is often different than we experience in our regular life. In what ways do you see a difference?
3. What is our role and purpose in engaging in culture?
4. What should be our motivation when it comes to engaging with neighbors, co-workers, and friends?
5. How has this topic challenged you?

TAKING IT HOME

- Pray about how you might engage with people this week.
- Ask God for opportunities, wisdom, and courage to engage in meaningful conversations that point people to Jesus.
- Report back to the group any activity that you have based on these prayers.

