

Lesson Five (January 17, 2016)
Second Missionary Journey -- Paul in Athens

Text: Acts 17

Summary of Text:

Questions:

1. According to verses 1-2, what was Paul's custom?
2. Verse 3 tells us what was the central message of Paul's discussions?
 - a. Does this fit with 1 Corinthians 15?
3. Is this the central message of the Bible or at least the hinge that the entire Bible hangs on?
 - a. Why would Paul make this the focus of his studies with the people?
4. How successful was Paul (verse 4)?
5. Are we surprised by verse 5?
6. What is said in verse 6 that is meant to harm the christians but is actually an amazing compliment?
7. Is the accusation in verse 7 true or false?
 - a. Why?
8. Verse 10 tells us Paul was sent away immediately -- what did he do when he arrived in Berea?
 - a. Does this surprise you after what just happened in verse 5 in the last city? Explain your answer.
9. What is the famous compliment about the Bereans in verse 11?
 - a. Who was teaching them?
 - b. Was the Holy Spirit with Paul?
 - c. What did the Bereans still do?
 - d. What lesson do you draw from this when you are listening to or studying with a "famous" preacher or teacher?
10. The result of this teaching in verse 12 was _____.
11. But what happens in verse 13?

12. The group breaks up a bit in verse 14 with Paul heading where?
 - a. Who stayed behind?
13. In verse 16, where is Paul?
 - a. By himself?
 - b. What thoughts are going through his head?
 - c. Why?
14. Notice the first word of verse 17 (“so” or “therefore”):
 - a. What is this relating back to?
 - b. What does Paul do?
15. We learn from verse 18 that Paul is teaching about what?
 - a. How do some of the sophisticated folks describe Paul and his teaching?
 - b. How else is Paul described?
 - c. Do we see a pattern of the central message of the Gospel -- it is all based upon Jesus and His _____.
 - i. Why?
16. Verses 19-21 tell us why Paul was given the opportunity to speak at the Areopagus (Mars Hill).
17. Notice in verse 22, what does Paul start off doing?
 - a. Compliment or attack?
 - b. Does he meet them where they are?
 - c. Does he quote from the Old Testament?
 - d. Notice though in the rest of the sermon he does not leave them where they are -- instead he leads them to where they need to go....
18. What does Paul pick out in verse 23?
19. What is the point of verses 24-25?
20. Is verse 27 a message of hope or doom?
 - a. Why?
21. Where in the Bible do the quotes in verse 28 come from?

- a. Why does Paul use these instead of scripture?
 - b. What lesson do you draw from this?
22. What's the connection with the last quote in verse 28 and the beginning of verse 29?
23. Explain verse 30.
24. Verse 31 is key:
- a. What is coming?
 - b. What is the proof?
 - i. Why does Paul keep coming back to this in all of his messages?
 - 1. Does he say this to Jews?
 - 2. To Gentiles?
 - 3. Why?
25. What is the reaction in verse 32?
- a. Part of this was negative. Is this a failure of Paul to properly explain the Gospel?
 - b. I thought if the Gospel is presented correctly, everyone would believe. So if everyone does not, it is the fault of the teacher, right?
 - i. Who else was a great preacher but some (many) rejected him?
 - c. What lesson do you learn from Paul on whether it is teaching the Gospel or having baptisms that is the test of whether we are obeying the Great Commission?

Your questions, comments, and thoughts?

What are the practical lessons for you today?