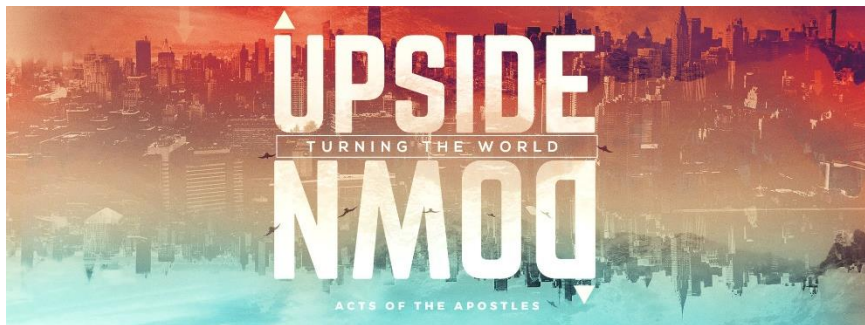




Preaching to the Philosophers in Athens

Life Group Study, Week of November 13, 2022

Engage.

Describe what Thanksgiving was like in your home when you were in elementary school.

Look at the Book. Read Acts 17:16-34

If you had the opportunity to hear the message on Sunday, was there a scripture, a thought or an impression that moved you personally? Did you have any questions?

What provoked Paul's spirit in Athens (verse 16)?

What did he do by way of response (verse 17)?

In what specific ways did Paul's approach to the Epicureans and Stoics differ from his approach to the Jews and "devout persons"?

To which attributes of God did Paul point in his speech in the Areopagus (verses 22-31)? List them.

If a full proclamation of the gospel includes the elements of creation, fall, redemption and restoration, where do you see Paul treating each (verses 22-31)?

In what ways did the Athenians respond to Paul (verses 18-20, 32-34)?

How does Paul's characterization of the Athenians and foreigners in verse 21 describe many people today?

Apply:

What provokes your spirit as you survey the idolatry of our world today? Where do you usually allow that provocation to lead you? Anger? Despair? Compassion? A desire to make Christ known?

Why is a culturally-informed, theologically-sound, and intellectually-understandable presentation of the gospel so needful in the 21st century?

How do verses 18-20, 32-34 help us to think realistically about how we as Christians might be perceived, and how the gospel will be received as we proclaim it today?

Why should we go ahead and make it known anyway?

With whom have you hesitated to share the gospel for fear of how you personally, or the message of the gospel itself, might be perceived?