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The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Paul in the Marketplace of Ideas

Acts 17:16-34

General Sermon Outline.

1. In Season and Out of Season
2. How to Dialogue like a Switch-Pitcher
3. How to Take the Roof Off an Argument
4. Proclaiming the Greatness of God
5. Driving Toward the Resurrection
6. Trusting God with the Results

Discussion Questions

Acts 17:16-34

1. In what ways is our culture like the Athenian culture? When it says that Paul's spirit was provoked as he saw a city full of idolatry, how does that inform us in how we should view our town or city? Where do we see idolatry in our context?
2. How would you describe Paul's demeanor in his interactions with the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers? In what ways does Paul's dialogue with them inform how we should engage unbelievers?
3. In verse 22, Paul acknowledged that the Athenians were very religious. In what ways do we see unbelievers living religiously? In some sense all people are religious because they are made to worship, but because they suppress the truth: they turn from God and worship the creation and not the Creator (Romans 1:25).
4. What was Paul's driving conclusion in his dialogue with the Athenian counsel? What was the capstone issue of Christianity? Hint: look at verse 31. Why is the resurrection central to our faith?