

Small Group Guide

Various Passages - Acts 17:22-34

From the sermon - Act 47

When Paul was in Athens he was given the opportunity to stand before the Council of the Areopagus, which was a supreme body for legislative and judicial matters. He took this opportunity and gave these men God's message for the world. Explaining who God is, he told them that it was now time to repent and turn to God. But instead of counting this message as another philosophy that could be debated, he proclaimed it as truth.

God's message to us is real, living, and true. In a world where there are many philosophies, rights, wrongs, and other perspectives, we should hold true to God's Word (God's message to us). This is a message we should give to the world.

1. Read Acts 17:22-34 and discuss what is going on.
2. What is the danger of accepting new ideas, ways of thinking, or new information?
3. What are the benefits of new ideas? How do we make sure new ideas point us to God and not away from Him?
4. Because the Greeks were very careful to observe all the different gods they had one altar dedicated to the "unknown god" (v. 23). Paul took this open opportunity to make the unknown God known to them. What things in our culture point to Jesus? How can we use these things to witness to others?
5. What is it about repentance and judgment that should guide the way we live?
6. Why are people turned off by hearing that they will be judged?
7. Why do we reject that accountability (repentance and judgment)?
8. What is a healthy way of looking at God's judgment and our repentance? How do we show others that these are good things, especially when repentance and judgment may turn them off?

Next small group meets the week of March 12th