

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for October 23, 2022

Sermon Notes

Let Me Introduce You to the One True God

Acts 17:22-33

No one can understand the good news of Jesus until they understand they actually *need* the good news of Jesus. This was true in the culture of Paul's day, and it equally true in ours today. Athens was the hub of a pluralistic society with many gods, many philosophies, and many different competing worldviews. Some in Paul's day (like the Jews in the synagogue) had enough religious background to have a basic understanding of a Biblical worldview, but most did not.

A Biblical worldview is largely absent in our culture today. In areas such as understanding basic reality, human identity, morality, human history, ethics, ultimate human destiny..... none of these, according to current cultural understanding can be definitively established or defined. What can we say to these things? As disciples of the One who said he is "the way, the truth and the life" how are we to respond to a culture that says one way is as good as another, there is no definitive truth, and life has no value, origin or ultimate destination?

We find an answer in Acts 17. In this passage there is a comparison and collision of worldviews. Paul recognized that in order for the resurrection to be understood he needed to set the context. He introduces who God is, what he is like and the Christian view of history. It's only in the context of the Christian worldview that the gospel makes sense. No one will listen to or respond to the good news of a Savior until they understand their need. This is what Paul did in Athens. It is a good model for us today.

The introduction: (Acts 17:22-28)

- God is the Creator of everything, Lord of heaven and earth
- God is transcendent and self-sufficient, He needs nothing from us
- God is Lord, the Sovereign over humanity and history
- God is relational, wanting mankind to know and worship Him

The Instruction: (Acts 17:29-31)

- The commonality of humanity and our common point of origin
- The uniqueness of God and the rebellion of idolatry
- The patience of God and the command to repent
- The righteous judgment of the resurrected one

The Response: (Acts 17:32-33)

- Some will mock
- Some will delay
- Some will believe

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How aware are you of the big story of God as you go about your life? What are the dangers of becoming disconnected from that story?

Why is it important to include, and perhaps even start with, creation as we share the gospel with others?

Just like Paul was able to use portions of the poetry from the Athenian culture to speak the gospel in a meaningful way, what are some elements of our own culture we could use in a similar way? How could these cultural elements offer opportunities for us to practice "gospeling" our world?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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