



An Open Door for the Gospel

Acts 17:16-34

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Awaiting the arrival of his missionary companions, the Apostle Paul found himself alone in the intellectual center of Athens. Having been driven out of the Macedonian cities of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea for preaching the good news of God's saving grace, he very well could have withdrawn and rested for a season. But he didn't. Instead he took advantage of the present opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Christ wherever and with whomever he could.

Background to the Passage

1. Christ's commission (Matthew 28:19).
2. Paul's commitment (1 Corinthians 2:3 and 16:8-9).

Principles for Sharing the Gospel with Others

1. **Seize every opportunity to introduce Christ (verses 16-21).**
2. **Start where people presently are (verses 22-28).**

3. Share what you know to be true (verses 29-31).

The truth about God

The truth about humanity

The truth about judgment

4. Submit the outcome to God's sovereign will (verse 32-34).

Questions To Consider

5. What are some of the obstacles (fear, lack of motivation, pride, etc.) that may be preventing you from being more faithful in sharing the Gospel with others?
6. Think of someone (perhaps a relative, a friend, a neighbor, or co-worker) who needs to trust Christ as Savior. What "common ground" ("redemptive analogy") might you be able to establish with them in order to begin a Gospel conversation?
7. Do you have a clear enough understanding of the Gospel that you are able to share it with others? How might you summarize it in a way that is easily remembered and communicated?
8. Why is it inadequate to speak of Christ apart from His resurrection from the grave?
9. How do you feel when someone ridicules you when you attempt to share with them the message of the Gospel? What should be your response?