

Sermon Notes

The Life of Paul and Evangelism Lessons From His Message to Athens

Part III

I. Life of Paul.

A. Things we have learned thus far.

1. Birthplace of significance.
2. His education.
3. Committed to zealous Pharisaism.

B. His early adult years.

1. Persecutor of the church.
 - a. Gal. 1:13,23; Phil. 3:6; I Tim. 1:13
 - b. Stoning of Steven.
 1. Acts 8:1
2. Addition insights on his zeal.
 - a. See Philippians 3:6
 - b. Numbers 25:11-13 – Story of Phinehas
 1. Jealous or zealous
 2. See Ps 106:28-31
3. Paul's appearance
 - a. II Corinthians 10:10
 - b. Possible description from "Acts of Paul"

II. Paul's message to Athens.

A. Acts 17:16-31

B. Exposition

1. Verse 22.
 - a. "Very religious in all respects."
 1. Slap or condemnation?
2. Verse 23.

a. "Examining your objects of worship."

1. Did not simply pass by them with disgust.

b. "To an unknown god."

1. Epiminides
2. Unknown – Greek is *agnostos*.
 - a. agnosticism
3. Having dedicated an altar to the unknown god, the Athenians must be open to instruction about him.
 - a. Calvin – On worship of God – meaningful worship is acceptable only if God is known.
4. Reason for mankind's lack of the knowledge of God.
 - a. They do not want the knowledge of Him.
 1. Romans 3:10-11
 2. Romans 1:18-25

C. "What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

1. Paul desires to correct the ignorance.
2. He does this by proclamation.

III. Points for Reflection.

A. Paul used revulsion as a motivation for engagement.

B. "Very religious in all respects" is indicative of mankind.

C. Paul's response: "This I proclaim to you . . ." is an example of the church's call to engage the culture. Proclaim the truth.

1. All roads lead to heaven – False – John 14:6.
2. All religions teach the same things – False – Gal. 1:6-8.
3. Secularism and its companions, materialism, hedonism, and relativism are false. Deut. 8:3; Psalm 53:1
4. Beware of T_____ M_____ D_____, the growing view of Christian youth in America. It is also false. Daniel 4:34-35.