

Book of Acts

Session 22: Acts 17-20

Athens' Unknown God

1. Read Acts 17:16-34. How did the members of the Areopagus respond? What lesson might we learn from the results of Paul's work in Athens compared to his work in Thessalonica and Berea?
2. Mention aspects of our society that properly distress us. How might we repeat Paul's godly response to things that bothered him?

Paul in Corinth & Returns to Antioch

3. Read Acts 18:1-22. How did the Lord encourage Paul?

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

4. Read Acts 18:23-28. Apollos was a very gifted speaker and knew his Scriptures well. However, Priscilla and Aquila discovered that his teaching was in error on some points. Describe how they handled Apollos' mistake. Discuss the wisdom of their approach. How might we be tempted to handle such incidents in a sinful way? How can we handle them in a godly manner?

Paul in Ephesus

5. Read Acts 19:1-22. What effect did the incident with the sons of Sceva have on the Ephesian believers? Discuss the proper role of fear in the life of a Christian.
6. Read Acts 19:23-41. Compare the concerns Demetrius expressed about his goddess (verse 27) to Psalm 115:3-9. What is the difference between a false god and the true God? At times we may think that our God is getting beaten. We may see that morality is eroding and especially that the gospel is being watered down or denied. Since we know God, who is described in Psalm 115, why can we remain calm and unafraid?

Paul in Macedonia and Greece

7. Read Acts 20:1-12. After the riot in Ephesus, Paul decided to leave. Later, when Paul heard of a Jewish plot to attack him on the voyage to Syria, he decided to walk instead. Evaluate: When Paul chose to leave Ephesus and when he avoided the Jewish plot, he showed that he did not trust in the Lord. (See Psalm 118:6 and Luke 4:12.) How do we determine what risks to run as we wish to share the good news of Jesus?
8. Read Acts 20:13-38. What would the consequences have been had Paul not proclaimed the whole will of God? What makes us hesitant to announce certain teachings of the Bible? Why is this dangerous?