

Study Guide for Feb. 5th, '06. Truth Overcomes Ignorance. Acts 17:16-34

Introduction: Have you ever been around non-believers when you felt compelled to speak up for Christ? What did you say? How did people respond to your words?

I. Distress Prompts Dialogue. Acts 17:16-21

- A. As Paul waits for Silas and Timothy, how does he feel? Why?
- B. Where does Paul engage people? When? Describe what he does?
- C. From what you're told about Athens, what would you expect the people to be like? Where would you expect to find people like that today?
- D. Jeremiah said, "But if I say, I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." (Jer. 20:9) Ask God for such fire.

II. Disclosure of the Unknown God through a Discourse. Acts 17:22-31

- A. Gaining a hearing. (vs. 22-23)
 - 1) How does Paul begin his speech?
 - 2) How can we engage people to open up conversations about spiritual matters?
- B. Giving a revelation. (vs. 24-28)
 - 1) What does Paul say about God? What has God done? What is God like?
 - 2) What does Paul say about how we are to relate to him?
 - 3) Reflect on vs. 27. What is the primary purpose of man while he is on earth?
 - 4) What contemporary ideas about God are corrected by what is revealed here?
- C. Calling for repentance. (vs. 29-31)
 - 1) God is **not** like _____, an image made by man's design. How do people today envision God after human likeness? Give some examples.
 - 2) "In the past God _____ such ignorance, but now commands all people, everywhere to _____."
 - 3) Who has God appointed as the final judge? How was this one validated?

III. Disbelief and a few Decisions. Acts 17:32-34

- A. What is the response to Paul's speech?
- B. Comment on the wisdom of God in light of this text and I Cor. 1:18-25 .