

3 Questions Everyone has about God: Is God Real?
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Acts 17:16-33

Summary: At some point in our life, we all ask, “Is God Real?” No one escapes it and, at some point, everyone has to answer it. In this message, we will talk about that question and how it was answered by the Apostle Paul in Acts. 17:16- 33.

Read/Pray: Reflectively read Acts 17:16-33. Pray that God will reveal what it is that you need to learn in this scripture. Where do you need to allow God to work in your life? Ask God “who do I have in my life that needs to hear the gospel? Ask Him also to give you the confidence, as Paul had, to share it with them.” Thank God for some specific ways that you saw Him work this past week. Name them by name/event. Get into a routine of heart-felt gratitude.

Background:

Athens was full of idols that, today, we would probably laugh at them all. They were a “poly-theistic” culture. In fact, even had an idol to the “unknown god” just in case they missed and left out a god somewhere.

Q: Is our culture, as a whole, really that much different? Before we laugh at the Greeks, what are some idols in today’s culture? What are some idols in YOUR OWN life that need to be dealt with? What do you place on the throne of your heart in place of God almighty

Atheists, Agnostics, and Advocates (vv. 16-17)

- What is the difference between an Atheist and an Agnostic? It is often said that “It takes more faith to be an Atheist than a Christ-follower!” Do you feel that is a true statement? Why or why not? Do you know any atheists or agnostics in your personal relationship network? Do those in your relationship network, in your life, see that you are an advocate for Christ? How do you show that daily?
- What made Paul’s audience want to hear more from him? In 2020 how does taking a contrite, courageous, and compassionate stand make people curious about what we have to say?
- What about the gospel message is strange to atheists and agnostics? Was it strange when you first heard it? How did God work in your heart when you heard it?

Five results of true belief = Forgiveness (past, present, future sins), Eternity (in heaven), Morality (Holy Spirit living in us), Truth (only 1 God, only 1 way to God), Purpose (in life)

- Which of these five results is your “greatest reality” and brings the most joy to your heart? Take time to THANK GOD for these realities of salvation.
- How did Paul use the culture around him to make a bridge into the gospel message? What are some bridges in your culture to the gospel?

Which part of the gospel do you have the most difficulty talking about or explaining? How could you better prepare yourself to proclaim this part of God’s message?

Read Romans 1:16. What unique power does the gospel message have? Why should we continue to share the gospel every chance we get? WHO in your life right now, needs to hear the gospel from you? Make a list. Pray for them. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with them.