

ONE message. people. mission.



The God Who Is There

Acts 17

Main Idea

Through faithful reasoning, explaining, and examining we see in the Scriptures the person of Christ, which brings understanding to our world.

Overview

- **God is there & He has spoken to Thessalonica**
 - Paul reasoned, explained, proved the Gospel (vs. 3)
 - Worked from the 1T Scriptures & pointed them to Christ/Gospel
 - We should understand this is what the Bible is ultimately pointing to
 - Jesus said this himself: Luke 24.25-27
 - Persecution comes to those that harbor believers
- **God is there & He has spoken to Berea**
 - “More Noble” = More open to receiving the truth of word
 - Made certain things were true by *examining* the Scriptures
 - Same should be true of us
- **God is there & He has spoken to Athens**
 - Epicureans: gods are inactive in the world, minimize pain, increase pleasure
 - Stoics: Live consistently with nature & focus on self sufficiency
 - Paul uses an altar to an “Unknown God” as a bridge to tell them of the God that they don’t worship
 - We see the flexibility of Paul in using different backgrounds to get them to the same Gospel
 - Paul tells the Bible’s story and connects it to their needing to worship the one true God

Questions

Discussion starter: Why is it most people around Christians think we do not think deeply about the world? What of those claims are true and what are false? What are some practical ways to attack the truth & lies?

1. What is meant by Paul “reasoning, explaining, and proving” the Gospel from the Old Testament?
2. How do we learn to read Christ as the early church did in the OT?
3. Why do the Jews travel such a distance and cause such a disturbance?
4. What might persecution look like in our culture?
5. Discuss how we might be a church like Berea that is open minded to receive the truth with eagerness & examining those truths to see if they were true.

6. How can we be confident “what is true?”
7. Discuss Paul’s ability to navigate both Jewish and Pagan background people and bring them to the same Gospel. Discuss ways we need to be prepared to do the same.
8. How does the Bible, and Christ in particular, help us to understand the world we live in.

Accountability Question: Talk about your Bible study & prayer habits and how they are translating into the way you see the world.