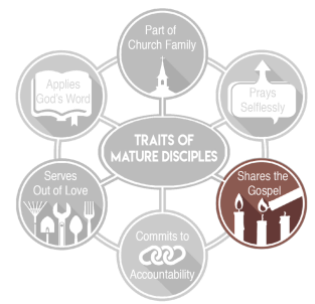


LIFE GROUP SESSION: WE ARE ALL WITNESSES (session two)



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Acts 17:16-34; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

This session covers the last two sermons in this series (Context for Gospel Sharing & Compelled by the Gospel)

Paul in Athens, a city 'swamped' in idols, yet he doesn't withdraw, he steps in to share the gospel, which he knows is good news even for these pagans and philosophers.

Paul observes, learns and listens – he learns the context of the city. He knows the philosophies, the idols & religions, as well as the poetry & literature.

By learning the culture, he can then move forward and set forth the truth plainly, in a way that makes sense for people. Many people still reject him for the crazy ideas, but many are interested.

Every tribe & tongue will confess, every knee will bow – the gospel does work and will work in every context! It is good news for all!

Having confidence in the gospel is the key foundation (Romans 1:16). The power, and therefore our faith and trust, should be in the *message*, not in our *methods* of communicating and contextualising.

We need a healthy and biblical tension of the 'fear of the Lord' and the 'love of Christ'. This is the gospel – not just focused around the love of Christ, but also the fear of the Lord, who deals with sin & evil.

We are all witnesses, or in Paul's language, ambassadors (*representatives in a foreign country*). We have been entrusted with this ministry, chosen for this time and task. God is appealing to the world through us and maybe God knows what He is doing. Trust Him and continue to walk in faith each day.

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: Do you feel like you have grown in your faith so far this year? Can you see growth in each other?

READ: Acts 17:16-34

- **Go through the passage and highlight every verb of Paul, every action word.**
- **Which of these things could you do more in your life?**
- **What are some key aspects of our culture that are either bridges or barriers to sharing the gospel?**

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

- **How can we have a healthy tension of the 'fear of the Lord' and 'the love of Christ'? How does this change the way we live and see people?**
- **Read verses 18-20 again. We are chosen, appointed, and entrusted with this message. Does this change anything for us?**

REFLECT: Who are one or two people who you can be more intentional with in sharing the gospel?

PRAY: Pray for confidence in the gospel message. Pray that we can communicate faithfully and contextualise wisely. Pray that we would be compelled to share, as we grow in our faith and mature as disciples.