



Sunday, April 21, 2019  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Acts 17**

The message about Jesus' resurrection is central to the proclamation of the gospel. In the book of Acts, almost every evangelistic sermon includes reference to Jesus' resurrection (Acts 2:14-36; 3:12-26, 4:8-12, 5:27-32, 10:34-43, 13:16-41, 17:22-31). Not only is this such a momentous occasion because it is the greatest miracle that has ever happened, but primarily because the resurrection teaches us about Who all of history revolves around—Jesus. He is the One who has been appointed to judge every person, and the way we know He is the One is that God raised Him from the dead.

People all over the world are asking questions about where their meaning is to be found. What is the purpose of life? Why are we here? And the answers come to us in the form of an empty tomb. Jesus is the King who is risen from the dead, who will judge every person, and whose death is the only way our sins can be atoned for. This is great news! Certainly, people have responded in different ways, but the only right way to respond to Him is to believe in His word and be devoted to His purposes.

## **Context**

Acts 17 provides a helpful contrast to Paul's earlier preaching in the Book of Acts. As it says in v. 2, it was his custom to go into the local synagogue and teach from the Old Testament scriptures about who Jesus is and why He came. But, by the time he comes to Athens, he knows that that tactic will not work. He still aims to preach Christ crucified and risen again, but his framework is no longer the Old Testament (which the Athenians would not have been well-versed in), but creation itself. So, in our culture where there is such a low degree of Bible literacy, it is helpful to see Paul in action, preaching the same Christ to those people as to people who knew their Bibles very well.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Acts 17:1-5, 10-13, 16-34

“Good News – Bad News”

1. Good News – Jesus and the Resurrection – v. 18

- Message                    2-3
- Reaction                    19-20 (also 4-5)

2. Bad News – Jesus and the Resurrection – 31

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Message                22-31
- Reaction                    32-34

3. Three Reactions

- Sneered    liar    32
- Again       later    32
- Believed    Lord    34

Romans 10:9-10

“...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

## **Discuss**

- 1) How central is Jesus' resurrection to your understanding of what it means to be a Christian?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Why do you think some people make the claim that Christianity is "anti-intellectual"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) How would you describe Paul's tone as he preaches in verses 22-31? How does that impact the way you think about your own evangelism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Why do you think people responded in different ways to Paul's gospel presentation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How does this passage demonstrate how Jesus' resurrection is a comfort to those who are grieving?