



“Ambassadors for Christ” – Part 3

Acts 17:16-21 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon

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Introduction – *The apostle Paul travels to Athens to share the Gospel as Christ’s ambassador. Today we explore how he is trying to reach pagan idolaters.*

I. A Witness in the Market Place.

A. Paul not only preached the Gospel to Jews in the Synagogue, he also preached the Gospel where everyone gathered in the Market Place.

B. In ancient cities, the Agora was a huge Market Place in the center of the city.

C. Paul went to the Market Place and made his faith public.

D. That’s what an ambassador does.

II. Challenges in the Market Place.

A. Athens was a marketplace of ideas.

B. Paul engaged Stoic and Epicurean philosophers in the Market Place.

C. The Stoics were basically moralists, who believed in moral absolutes that were found in the rational structure of the universe, which they referred to as “The Logos.”

D. On the other hand, the Epicurean philosophers were basically relativists, who believed that the purpose of life is to be happy.

E. Paul “reasoned” with the people in the Market Place.

F. In Paul’s day, that meant “Socratic” reasoning.

G. Believers are Christ’s presence and voice in the marketplace.

III. Christ in the Market Place.

A. Paul’s focus was on the Gospel. The death and resurrection of Jesus.

B. He referred to Jesus in personal terms.

C. Paul’s teaching piqued their curiosity wanting to know more.

Conclusion.