

With Paul determined to only preach the Gospel, what were the results in Corinth?

* **Many people in Corinth were saved.**
(Acts 18:10)

* Paul stayed and taught in Corinth for a year and a half. (Acts 18:11)

Comparisons - Athens vs. Corinth

* Both Athens and Corinth were very secular Greek-minded cities. Athens was a seat of philosophy, while Corinth was a home to Greek styled Olympic games. Both cities were very ungodly.

* In Athens, Paul used the local environment to assist in preaching the Gospel. In Corinth, Paul purposed to preach only Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

* In Athens, only a few believed. In Corinth, God had many people to be reached.

* Paul stayed only a short time in Athens. Paul taught the Word of God for a year and a half in Corinth.

Possible Conclusions

Is it possible that Paul learned from his experience in Athens that the Gospel ALONE is the power of God unto salvation? This is something that he specifically stated in Romans 1:16.

Is it possible that the church today could learn something from the education that

Paul may have received during his Athenian stop on this missionary journey?

Perhaps we should not be so quick to draw connections between Jesus Christ and things that exist in our environment?

Could it be, that any connection between Jesus and things of this world, serves to reduce the majesty of Jesus?

Maybe God is showing us to stick with His Gospel. After all, the Gospel is His power unto salvation!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the POWER of God unto SALVATION to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

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By: Robert Dallmann

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.” (Acts 17:16)

“For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” (Acts 17:23)

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” (Acts 17:28)

We can see from the verses above that Paul was moved by the abundance of idolatry. Furthermore, we see that Paul refers to their “Unknown God” and quotes one of the Athenian poets, in an effort to connect the people with his message.

This section of Scripture is often used to support the notion of “meeting people where they are at”. The idea says to use a person's environment as a starting point to share the Gospel with them.

THE MARS HILL EDUCATION

Initially, this appears to be a valid understanding of this passage. However, is it possible that a deeper look might indicate something else? In the remainder of this message, we will look at the sequence of events, the end results, and the final commitment that Paul states.

Acts 17:10-15

Paul preached the Gospel in Berea and MANY people believed in Jesus.

“Therefore MANY of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.” (Acts 17:12)

The Jews from Thessalonica (where Paul had preached before coming to Berea), heard that Paul was preaching in Berea and came and stirred the people up. Paul was quickly sent away to Athens, where he awaited the arrival of Silas and Timothy.

Acts 17:16-21

Paul was stirred up by the overwhelming idolatry of the city, and began to dispute in the synagogue with the Jews, and with those who met him.

While Paul was preaching, most likely in the market, some philosophers heard him. They thought Paul was teaching some strange gods, since he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

These philosophers took Paul to the Areopagus and asked him to explain this new doctrine that he taught.

Acts 17:22-31

In Paul's efforts to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them, he used their “Unknown God” shrine, and referenced one of their own poets. Paul attempted to connect the philosophers with the Gospel by using their familiar environment.

At the end of Paul's teaching, he spoke of God raising Jesus from the dead.

Acts 17:32-34

At the mention of the resurrection of the dead, some of Paul's audience immediately mocked him. Other listeners indicated that they would like to hear Paul again.

A few people believed the Gospel and left with Paul, amongst them were Dionysius and Damaris.

Summary Of These Acts 17 Events

- * Paul preached the Gospel
 - * Philosophers heard and wanted to learn more
 - * Paul referenced their “Unknown God” and their poet
 - * **Few believed**
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Reminder - Preaching Results In Berea

“Therefore MANY of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.” (Acts 17:12)

* **Many believed**, including Gentile women and men.

Paul Went To Corinth Next

“After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;” (Acts 18:1)

After the events on Mars Hill, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

What Paul Preached In Corinth

*“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. (2) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save JESUS CHRIST, and HIM CRUCIFIED.”
(1 Corinthians 2:1-2)*

Paul states that when he went to Corinth, he did not testify of God by using “excellency of speech” or “wisdom”. He purposely determined not to preach anything except Jesus Christ and Him crucified... the Gospel!

The Preaching Results In Corinth