

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is
Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God’s people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up
Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Acts 16:16-34

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there

would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

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Acts 17:16-34

ALSO READ
Acts 17:10-20:28

Study Guide 22 May 2011 Bringing the Gospel to Different Cultures



Summary

What is the gospel message that Paul always preached? It is the story of God, Man, Christ and our response.

What does the gospel do to different cultures? A culture is how we live in the light of how we answer the “big questions” of life: origin, identity, purpose, and meaning. The gospel connects with culture, confronts culture, and confounds culture.

We are all created in the image of God and God has left evidence of Himself, no matter how small, within each culture. At the same time, the gospel culture points out everything in our culture that is wrong – everything that is not in line with God’s narrative of the world. With this, no culture can escape complete transformation: no culture can just tack on the gospel message and call themselves Christians.

How can we be effective in bringing the gospel to different cultures? First we need to know the gospel, bringing each other towards greater accuracy. Then we also need to understand our culture. When we know gospel and culture better, we will see the connections and transformations that have to take place in our culture. By this we bring Jesus, our ultimate joy and hope, to answer life’s big questions.

Key points

The gospel speaks to all cultures and radically transforms them.

Join us as we study through the book of acts day by day in May. You can get your study guide book at the Welcome Desk or at www.rhc.org.sg/resources/sunday-sermons/acts-series

Questions

- >>Frame the gospel story in your own words.
- >>How can we gain a more accurate understanding of the gospel?
- >>Share about the history of your culture and subculture.
- >>What are the connections between your culture and the gospel?
- >>How does the gospel point out the sin in your culture?
- >>How would you talk about the gospel to someone of your own culture?

Final thoughts

Let us immerse ourselves in the joy of the gospel of God and let it transform our life and our culture.