

I. Paul ministered while he waited. Acts 17:15-21

Epicureans were taught that _____ is the highest goal for living, so we should eat, drink, and be merry. They were taught the world was not formed by a god.

- **Stoic philosophers** said the world was created by _____, while all things are subject to the Fates, three sisters in Greek mythology. Zeus had to respect the Fates regarding life and death decisions.

Paul's message was the same everywhere he went. His message was about Jesus being the Messiah, _____ for our sins, and rising again on the third day.

II. Seek the unknown God. Acts 17:22-28

The Greek word for **religious** used in **vs. 22** can mean _____ or even *a worshipper of many demons*.

- Someone once said, "You _____ according to what you believe." Most often, a person's beliefs provide a moral framework and guide their behavior and decision-making.

The Lord is not distant or detached; He is present in the smallest moments of our lives. Even when we don't _____ it, Jesus is near.

III. God is not a statue. Acts 17:29-33

Paul was using logic with these philosophers. If we are children of God, He cannot be made from gold, silver, or stone. Children _____ their parents, and man was made in the image of God. **Genesis 1:26**

- Repentance means to make a _____, as it involves a change of mind and heart. It is turning away from sin and turning toward the Lord.

The Lord desires a personal relationship with humanity, so the call to repent is an _____ for us to move from ignorance to truth, from separation because of sin, to fellowship with Him.

IV. Practical Application.

1. We are to live in full _____ on Christ. **John 15:5**
2. Our new _____ comes from Christ.
3. We need to have the awareness of the Lord's _____.
4. In Christ, we have _____ because we are rooted in Him.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Acts 17:15-18**. What city was Paul waiting in, and what did he notice about the people of that city? Discuss the two types of philosophers and the beliefs they held, mentioned in the sermon.
Ecclesiastes 3:11, Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Corinthians 15:32, Philippians 3:19, Proverbs 14:12
2. Read **Acts 17:19-21**. Why did the men of Athens bring Paul to the Areopagus?
James 1:5, Ecclesiastes 7:12, Colossians 2:3
3. Read **Acts 17:22-23**. What does *superstitious* mean in **verse 22**? What object does Paul use as a starting point for his message?
4. Read **Acts 17:24-29**. How does Paul describe God? Discuss His attributes.
Job 12:10, Colossians 1:16-17, Psalm 37:23, Psalm 139:13-14, Isaiah 30:18, James 2:19
5. Countercultural evangelism means to share the gospel in ways that challenge prevailing beliefs, values, and idols of a culture. *What can we learn from Paul's approach to sharing truth in a culture full of different beliefs?*
Genesis 1:1, John 1:1, Matthew 5:13-16, Galatians 3:28, Matthew 28:18-20
6. Read **Acts 17:29**. What logic did Paul use with the people from Athens to demonstrate that God is not made from stone or metal?
Genesis 1:26, Psalm 90:2, Isaiah 43:10
7. Read **Acts 17:30**. What command does God now give to all people? What does repentance mean? Why is it important?
2 Peter 3:9, Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9
8. Discuss the four points of the **Practical Application**.