

# ACTS 17:16-34

## BACKGROUND

In last week's passage, Paul and his traveling companions preached the gospel and planted a churches in Thessalonica and Berea. However, many of the Thessalonians hated him so much that not only did they run him out of Thessalonica but they also traveled to Berea and agitated the crowd against him so much that Paul's friends had to send him off to Athens. In this week's passage, Paul is in the city of Athens which was the intellectual hub of the known world and chock-full of statues and shrines to gods and goddesses.

## PRAY

## PLEASE READ ACTS 17:16-34

## SHARE OBSERVATIONS (Who? What? When? Where? Repeating words, phrases, & themes?)

## QUESTIONS

1. Paul was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols (v16). What are some idols in your city that you've been greatly distressed by? In what ways has God used this to cultivate compassion in you towards people in your city?
2. What are some ways that Paul's message in v22-31 fits this audience and shows them who the true God is?
3. While Paul is proclaiming the gospel, he quotes a couple poets that his audience were familiar with (v28), which would be the modern equivalence of quoting Taylor Swift lyrics. In what ways does this help Paul as an effective communicator of the gospel? Why?
4. One of the intended outworking's of God's sovereignty over human history (v26) is so that people would seek him and find him (v27). In what ways is this meant to be an encouragement to believers?
5. Paul left the Areopagus even though some wanted to hear him again on the subject (v33). In what ways was his departure probably a good idea and not rooted in "giving up on people"? What have been some situations where you've wrestled with a similar decision and your motives for doing so?
6. How does this passage encourage or challenge you?

How what ways can we be praying for each other?