

Building Bridges, Not Barriers Note Answers

Acts 17:16-34

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Main Point: If we're going to reach unbelievers with the gospel, we must build bridges, not barriers.

Background

1. Athens was "full of _____" (vs 16).
 - This means they were covered with, or "_____ " idols.
2. "Provoked" has the idea of being so morally _____, his insides convulsed.
 - It's a combination of anger and _____.
3. Instead of leaving the city or complaining to the officials, verse 17 tells us Paul first _____ in the synagogue and then built bridges with those in the marketplace every day.
4. Groups of philosophers who wanted to debate with him (vs. 18).
 - The Epicureans – they were _____.
 - Their chief goal was the pursuit of _____.
 - Their deepest desire was the avoidance of _____.
 - Their motto was "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."
 - The Stoics – They were _____.
 - Believed everything was God and God was in _____.
 - Their motto was "Grin and bear it."
5. The word "babbling" is literally a "_____ -picker."
6. Others were interested and wanted to know more about "this new teaching" so they brought him to the Areopagus, the highest court in Athens.
7. The Greeks had 800 years of Greek mythology and 500 years of Greek philosophy and they were still _____ for something to satisfy.

Six Ways Paul Built Gospel Bridges

1. _____ what you can (vs. 22).
 - Paul was repulsed by all their idols and their ideas, but he was _____.
 - Paul chose the word for "_____."
 - He didn't denounce them or attack their idolatry.
 - We should never be surprised when non-Christians act like non-Christians.
 - Unbelievers will pick up on our _____, so we need to be careful.
 - Four choices
 - _____ – Some retreated to monasteries, etc.
 - _____ – Some insulate themselves from the problems and pain of those who don't yet know Christ. These people spend almost all their time with other Christians.
 - _____ – Instead of fighting the world, this person just wants to fit in and ends up caving into the culture.
 - _____ – We're to expose darkness and point people to the light of the world. We're to function as a preservative in society and make people thirsty for Jesus.
2. Connect to a _____ (vs. 23).
 - The word "observed" means "to behold _____."

- They erected an altar to an “_____ god” because they didn’t want to inadvertently miss one.
 - The God they thought was hidden, was the God Paul openly proclaimed to them.
 - Paul hung out where people lived and _____.
3. Clearly _____ God (vs. 23).
- The phrase “worship as unknown” really means “in _____.”
 - There’s only one _____ (Isaiah 45:5).
 - Theology proper (vs. 24-25).
 - God is the _____ of everything.
 - God is Lord of all.
 - God cannot be contained in a _____.
 - God does not need anything from anyone.
 - God _____ His creation.
 - Theological anthropology (vs. 26-27).
 - The entire human race can be traced to _____.
 - God determines the time and place for every individual and every nation.
 - God put within us a _____ to know Him (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
 - The Paul circles back to making a cultural connection when he quotes two of their pagan poets before again establishing the uniqueness of God.
4. Call for _____ (vs. 30, Matthew 4:17, Acts 3:19).
5. _____ who Christ is (vs. 31).
- We must look for ways to communicate clearly about who Christ is.
 - Christology with two main headings.
 - Everyone will face the _____ of Jesus (John 5:22, Hebrews 9:27)
 - Jesus has been _____ from the dead.
 - Paul hit on sin, righteousness, and judgment because according to John 16:8 that’s how the Holy Spirit brings _____.
 - You will either face Jesus as Judge, or you will face Him as Justifier (Romans 6:23).
6. Commit the _____ to God.
- We are not responsible for how people _____.
 - Three responses.
 - Some _____ (vs. 32) – “mock” means they “sneered and derided.”
 - Others were _____ (vs. 32) – Their appetites were whetted, and they told Paul they wanted to talk some more. This often amounts to procrastination.
 - A few _____ (vs. 34).
 - Regardless of how someone responds, it’s our responsibility to do what we can to _____ them to Christ.

Action Steps

1. Repent and received Christ.
2. Look for opportunities to connect with non-Christians.