

## **SERMON FROM MARS HILL**

We are currently studying the importance of missionary evangelism during the Church Age. During Paul's second missionary evangelism trip (MET), Paul was personally attacked and life threatened for preaching the gospel of grace salvation at Berea of Macedonia (Acts 17:1-15).

Paul travelled to Athens of Achaia to wait for Silas and Timothy who had been left behind at Berea to confirm converts. They prided themselves with a democracy form of governing, especially when it came to religion (a city full of idols) (Acts 17:16).

(Acts 7:22) "I observe that you are very religious in all respects."

We will divide Paul missionary evangelism to Athens into two studies.

- (Acts 17:16-21) Market Place Evangelism
- (Acts 17:22-34) Mars Hill (areopagus) Evangelism

In our [last study](#), we studied Paul's evangelism ministry in the Agora (market place).

### **Four aspects of Paul's sermon to the council of Areopagus (ar-e-op-a-gus) (Areios/ Ares/ Mars and pagos hill)**

#### **1. Some of the members of the council of Areopagus had heard Paul preaching at the Agora and invited him to speak to them at Mars Hill.**

(Acts 17:19-20) "May we know what this new teaching is which you are preaching? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean."

(Acts 17:21) "Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to **spend their time** in nothing other than telling or hearing something new."

(2 Tim.4:2-4) "**Preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction, for the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will **turn their ears from the truth** and will **turn aside to myths**."

The council of Areopagus was a legal body like the lower supreme court in the Roman empire. Socrates was brought before this court and sentenced to death some 500 years earlier.

#### **2. Paul's entire sermon is recorded (Acts 17:22-31) as well as their response in our lesson text (Acts 17:32-34).**

We will examine it by the following five homiletic points of open doors for missionary evangelism.

- Paul's observation (Acts 17:22-23) – Geographical pocket of volition (Acts 17:16, 19-20)
- Paul's opportunity (Acts 17:25-26) – God creator (Rom.1)
- Paul's ontological argument (Acts 17:27-29) – God-consciousness (Acts 17:17)
- Paul's objective (Acts 17:30-31) – Gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)
- Paul's outreach (Acts 17:32-34) – Grace salvation and follow-up (Jn.16:7-11)

### 3. **Positive volition (PV) at God-Consciousness (GC) makes it possible to give gospel hearing,**

(2 Pet.3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

(1 Tim.2:4-6) “**Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and **one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.” (John 3:16)**

(1 John 2:2) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

The gospel is sown to positive volition [good ground] (Matt.13:23) and then convicted by The Holy Spirit (John 16:7-11). This is done because the natural man (without the Indwelling Holy Spirit) [unspiritual] cannot understand (rationalize/ foolishness) spiritual matters (1 Cor.2:14).

When you think about the bigger picture of conversion, grace salvation is a miracle – “Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!”

### 4. **The importance of missionary evangelism is understanding that it is God’s Will to send or bring PV to gospel hearing and that all church age believers are called to be His Ambassadors of it.**

God knows where the pockets and people with PV are in world and communities. God will bring the person or the pocket of PV to you - or you to them.

- God brought the Queen of the South to Solomon (Luke 11:31).
- God sent Jonah to the Ninevites (Luke 11:32).
- God brought the Ethiopian to Jerusalem and then Philip to him (Acts 8:26-38).
- God brought Paul to Macedonia (Acts 16:9-10)
- God put Paul in the Philippi prison to save the jailor and his household (Acts 16:25-33)