

WELLSPRING

WORSHIP CENTER

Acts Chapter 17 – Paul in Athens 09/21/2025 Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Paul was "greatly troubled" when he saw that Athens was full of idols? Wasn't he used to seeing idols in Greek cities?
2. What does Paul's choice to reason (dialogue) both in the synagogue and marketplace teach us about engaging with culture today? How did Paul's approach of dialoguing differ between the synagogue and the marketplace?
3. Discuss this point: "We may not all have the calling of an evangelist but we can all be willing to dialogue with those God has placed in our lives."
4. What might we learn from Paul's decision to start his dialogue with the philosophers with the altar "to an unknown god"?
5. How might we find "entry points" or "bridges" to talk about God in our own cultural setting?
6. Discuss this quote from CS Lewis: "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."
7. Can you think of a time in your life when you tried to fill a void in your life with a temporary worldly pleasure or pursuit?
8. In Acts 17:28 Paul quotes Greek poets. What does this tell us about his strategy for persuasion? How much of a working knowledge should we have of our culture today in order to reach out to non-Christians?
9. How did Paul's statement from Acts 17:28, that "we are God's offspring" challenge the Athens idolatry?
10. Why do you think some mocked Paul's message while others wanted to hear more?
11. Only a handful of people in Athens became believers from Paul's preaching. What does it say about Paul that he was willing to do his best and leave the results of his preaching to God?