

**November 5, 2023**  
**Acts 17:5-21**  
**“Some Will Mock, Some Will Consider, Carry On”**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

The people of Berea listened to Paul’s message, they went to their own source of authority for their lives to consider his message against the Scripture; the result was many of the noble people believed and placed their faith in the risen Christ Jesus. Do you remember Ezra? He set his heart on study of the Word, see **Ezra 7:10**. There is no wisdom, hope, or joy apart from the instructions for life found only in the Bible.

This idol ridden place called Athens had two war fronts, the synagogue and the marketplace. Paul’s big obstacle was to get the people to understand the RESURRECTION, they just didn’t get it and thought this was some new philosophy or religion. In your witnessing, keep it simple, give them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One author wrote, Paul’s visit to Athens is a centerpiece for the entire book of Acts. Paul was up against the philosophers. Interestingly, secular philosophers today, have no better reasoning available to them lest they turn to Jesus.

**Epicurean paradigm**, there is nothing after death so just live like you want. Live for self-gratification, be it for good or for evil. If pleasure in life plays out for you-just kill yourself.

**Stoic paradigm**, pantheistic in thought, (someone who believes that God exists in, and is the same as, all things, animals, and people within the universe: pantheist believe a divine Unity exists, just not sure who or how . . .)

Both of these views which are very prevalent today still exists. Since the days of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Zeno there have never been any other philosophies to come along and take their place of thought within the secular world. Hopeless and lost as one can plainly see from these brief descriptions above.

**Christianity**, diametrically opposed to all of the world’s vain philosophies.

**Application:**

Athen’s idols made Paul sick, so, he reasoned with the Athenians, first in the synagogue. At off hours Paul did as Socrates had done about 450 years prior, he stood in a public place and spoke to those who happened by. The Epicurean and Stoic “professional” philosophers were always ready to argue, they came there for that purpose! Some of the crowd mocked Paul, others considered what he was saying. Let’s do the same, share the gospel, let God sort them out. Be a faithful witnesses for Him.