

We Answer to God

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Acts 17:24-34

Pagan Philosophers

Classic Creation Teaching

(24-28)

God made everything and everyone

He does not need anything – He gives!

Purpose – He wants people to connect to Him

Commands and Judges

(29-31)

Creation – not “everything as it should be”

We Answer to God

Creation and Commands

God Seems to Believe ...

He has the right to tell us how to live!

He is treating us like responsible partners

Image of God

Created, Purpose, Responsible

Judgement and Joy

Judgement Talk

Usually strikes us as only a “negative”

But often linked to joy in Bible

The Point of Judgement

Pondering this on IDOP

Zahnd – I have a problem with the Bible

Judgement – About getting back on track

Don't Get There Too Fast

Obedience and Judgement

Need – Forgiveness, Freedom, Transformation

But – Don't short-circuit the process

Forgiveness – True Repentance

Freedom – Coming to End of Ourselves

Transformation – Trust, Spirit

Small Group Guide

Kicking off your Time Together

Ice Breaker

If someone made a statue of you, what pose would be most appropriate?

Opening Prayer

Have one or two open in prayer asking God to be present and to direct your time.

What Did you Bring?

Did you bring anything to share to encourage the group? (consider 1 Cor 14:26 as the pattern for this part of the meeting)

Read Passage

Read this passage: Acts 17:16-34

Discuss a few of these questions:

What distressed Paul in Athens? What do you find distressing in our time and place?

Paul is here speaking to people who had no knowledge of the Christian message. What did he emphasize in this message about God, Jesus, people? Why emphasize this?

In what ways can this message be a ‘model’ for how to communicate with those who do not have a knowledge of the Christian message?

What does Paul call people to do in this message?

Pray for Each Other

In light of all that has been shared, pray for each other.

You may want to share specific requests.