

**EXPOSITORY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS, #47**  
**Section Three, “The Foreign Emphasis,” Part One**  
**“Paul is a Pioneer for the Continuation of the Church,” #16**  
**“Paul Expands the Church- The 2nd Missionary Journey,” Part Two**  
**“The Expanding Church Endures Frustrating Problems,” #2**  
**“The Expanding Church Encounters Various Philosophies,” 17:15-34**  
**Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, PM, May 29, 2005**

***INTRODUCTION:***

*SneakPreview:* While the world espouses “systems of thought” that run contrary to the Scriptures, the Word of God possesses an implicit power to overcome those “vain” philosophies.

Let’s see where we have been in the last few months...

- Paul Expands the Church- The Second Missionary Journey. 16:1-18:23a.
  - A. The Expanding Church Experiences Fruitful Progress. Ch. 16.
    - 1. Another Preacher is Added (Timothy). Vss. 1-5.
    - 2. Another Plan is Adopted. Vss. 6-15.
    - 3. Another Persecution is Activated. Vss. 16-24.
    - 4. Another Prison is Alarmed (Philippian Jailer). Vss. 25-34.
    - 5. Another Pressure is Applied. Vss. 35-40.
  - B. The Expanding Church Endures Frustrating Problems. Ch. 17.
    - 1. The Expanding Church Experiences Violent Protests. Vss. 1-14. And now...
    - 2. The Expanding Church Encounters Various Philosophies. Vss. 15-34.

***PROPOSITION:*** Let's consider three truths concerning Paul's message that helps us overcome the world's philosophies.

## **I. PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS PROMPTED BY THE SPIRIT. Vss. 15-21.**

- A. See Paul on the Streets of Athens. Vss. 15, 16.

*15 So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. 16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.*

- B. See Paul in the Synagogue of Athens. Vs. 17a.

*Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers...*

- C. See Paul on the Square at Athens. Vs. 17b.

*...and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.*

- D. See Paul on the Summit of Athens. Vss. 18-21.

*18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babblor want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.*

**LifePoint One:** If the Holy Spirit is missing from dealings with the Word of God, then the Word of God is missing in us. God does not impart His Word without His Spirit.

## **II. PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS PRESENTED IN SEQUENCE. Vss. 22-31.**

- A. Paul's Message had a Logical Beginning (This is the Doctrine of Christ-Romans 3). Vss. 22, 23.

*22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.*

*Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:*

- B. Paul's Message had a Logical **Basis** (This is the Doctrine of Creation-Romans 1). Vss. 24-30.

*24“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25“Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath and all things. 26“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27“so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28“for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ 29“Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. 30“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent...*

- C. Paul's Message had a Logical **Burden** (This is the Doctrine of Conscience- Romans 2). Vs. 31.

*...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*

**LifePoint Two:** God is a God Who does things “decently and in order.” It should not surprise us that He expresses His Word in the same way.

### **III. PAUL'S MESSAGE PRODUCED SOME SUCCESS. Vss. 32-34.**

- A. Some Responded with **Derision**. Vss. 32, 33.

*32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.” 33 So Paul departed from among them.*

- B. Some Responded with **Decision**. Vs. 34.

*However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

**LifePoint Three:** There is no “middle ground” when it comes to accepting or

rejecting God. Our disposition is either one of derision or one of decision. It's that simple.

***APPLICATION:***

***PowerPoint:*** No matter how persuasive and influential the preacher, it is the Spirit of God Who must “draw all men unto Himself.”