

April 21, 2019  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Acts 17:15-34

“Living Hope”

1. **The Setting = like Southern California (15-21)**
  - a. **Waiting (15-16) – provoked... observing idols**
  - b. **Reasoning / Debating (17)**
  - c. **Conversing / Arguing / Name Calling (18)**
    - Epicureans = “Enjoy life!”
    - Stoics = “Endure life!”
  - d. **Preaching / Proclaiming (18) – deity of Jesus and resurrection of Jesus**
    - Deities plural?
  - e. **Evaluating / Philosophizing – old vs. new (19-21)**
  
2. **The Sermon (22-31)**
  - a. **Introduction (22-23)**
    - Areopagus
    - “Very religious in all respects”
    - ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD’
    - What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you
  
  - b. **Body (24-29)**
    - 1) **God is the Creator of All Things (24)**
    - 2) **God is the Sustainer of All Things (25)**
    - 3) **God is the Ordainer of All Things (26-29)**
  
  - c. **Conclusion (30-31) - <sup>30</sup>“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”**
    - 1) **Repent (30)**
  
    - 2) **Judgment is coming (31)**
  
3. **The Summary of Responses (32-34)**
  - a. **Rejection (32)**
  
  - b. **Toleration / Indifference (32-33)**
  
  - c. **Salvation (34)**

**So What?**

1. **Where are you placing your hope? An idol? An unknown God? Or Jesus Christ the risen King of kings and Lord of lords?**
  
2. **Intellectual reasons for not repenting and following Jesus? Read the book, “More Than A Carpenter,” by Josh McDowell.**

## **Discussion & Application:**

- 1. Idolatry was obvious in Athens but more subtle here in Southern California. What are some of the idols in our area? Why would people place their hope in those things?**
- 2. When Paul spoke to Jewish people about Jesus he started with the Scriptures (the Bible). When he spoke to non-Jewish people he started with creation. Why do you think he did that? (See Romans 1)**
- 3. Read Luke 1:1-4. Luke wanted his readers to be convinced about who Jesus was and what He came to do. Is there evidence for Christianity? [See “Evidence That Demands A Verdict,” by Josh McDowell] Is there historical evidence (outside the Bible) for Jesus? Can we be certain that He died on a cross, was buried, and rose from the dead? What terminology in Acts 17 demonstrates that the Apostle Paul was absolutely convinced?**
- 4. Current statistics say that nearly 2 people die every second in our world (that’s approximately 151,600 per day). What hope do these people have beyond the grave? How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead give us hope when we are facing death?**
- 5. Paul told the people of Athens to “repent” because Jesus was going to return to “judge” all mankind on the basis of perfect righteousness. When you stand before Jesus in judgment, what will you say? Are you absolutely sure that He will judge you worthy of His righteous kingdom? On what basis? Where are you placing your hope?**
- 6. Some of the people in Athens rejected the message of Jesus and some simply tolerated it. Is it enough to simply be tolerant of those who believe in Jesus? On the day of judgment, will that be better than outright denying Him?**
- 7. When Jesus returns, will He come as your Lord and Savior or as your Judge? What about your family members? Neighbors? Co-workers? Friends? Write down the names of 5 people you know that do not have a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for them daily. Go tell them who Jesus is and what he has done for us. Give them a living hope!**