



The Gospel in Athens

Acts 17:16-34

February 23, 2020

Paul's contextualized sermon in Athens

Was this sermon a failure or a model?

What is the "Gospel"?

Short-hand term meaning "good news" for the many-layered truths of the Christian message

A strange word, a wide range of meaning, and a common paralysis

Rooted in the teaching of Jesus: Mark 1:14

Rooted in the language of Isaiah 40:9; 41:27; 52:7; 60:6; 61:1

What would Jesus' hearers have heard at the announcement of "good news"?

"Gospel" connected to healing/deliverance: Matt 4:23, 9:35, 11:5, Luke 4:18, 7:22, 9:6

Usage in the book of Acts becomes a general reference to preaching

Defined by Paul in three key texts: Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:8

The core center of the Gospel: Jesus died, Jesus rose again, Jesus is Lord of all.

Consider the revolutionary nuance of this term in light of the Emperor Cult

This ties together the good news of Jesus and the good news of Paul

The true King has definitively come and everything is changing!

Note this is primarily a proclamation of an event, not a proposal

The linchpin is the historical, literal, physical resurrection of Jesus: 1 Cor 15:17

The difference between resurrection and resuscitation

Jesus' resurrection as the first-fruits of the new creation! 1 Cor 15:23

All the other strands of good news follow from this central good news

Back to the Athens sermon: see the Gospel core in v. 31

The model given us in this sermon: connect to the felt-need context via the resurrection

Sickness, death, guilt, sin, fear, shame, meaning, justice, climate, identity, love...

This Gospel is the locus of power: not your story or how well you explain things: Romans 1:16

The announcement of Jesus' resurrection will always be polarizing: v.32

Never underestimate the power of "some" v.34
