

NAVIGATING OUR NEW WORLD

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed when he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with those who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. Some said, “What is this ignorant show-off trying to say?” Others replied, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign deities”—because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting? Because what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these things mean.” (Acts 17:16-20)

As usual, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.” (Acts 17:2-3)

Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, “People of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ (Acts 17:22-23)

“...we should neither try to force people to believe the gospel, nor remain silent as if we were indifferent to their response... but rather, like the apostles, we should reason with people from both nature and Scripture, commending God’s gospel to them by rational arguments.” (John Stott)

Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person. (Colossians 4:5-6)

1. Live with curiosity towards others.
2. Live under the care of the Scriptures.

“Scripture is the most up-to-date and relevant reading that ever comes my way.” (J.I Packer)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Reflection Question:

How is God inviting you to season the culture around you with the Gospel?