Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Acts 17:16-34

Mission to Mars

Background

Read Ac 17:10-15. Why was Paul in Athens without his team members? Summarize what happened in Berea.

Digging In

1. **Read vss. 16-17.** Why was Paul distressed?

2. How did he respond? What did he do?

3. **Read vss. 18-21**. The *Areopagus* was a council of philosophers. How did they view Paul?

4. Why did they bring Paul to one of their meetings?

5. **Read vss. 22-23**. What did Paul use as a point of contact?

6. **Read vss. 24-28**. What key assertions does Paul make about God in these verses?

7. **Read vss. 29-31**. How does Paul confront the issue of idolatry?

8. How does he begin to introduce the gospel?

9. **Read vss. 32-34.** What was the reaction of the listeners to Paul's preaching about the resurrection of Christ?

10. What was the response to Paul's preaching in Athens? (v. 34)

Getting Personal

- How is Paul's preaching in Athens different than his preaching in Pisidian Antioch (13:16-41)? Why do you think that is?

- In speaking to the Areopagus, Paul does not review Jewish history or quote from the Scriptures, but he still communicates biblical truth. How does he do that?

- What do you make of the fact that Paul quoted some pagan poets?

- What can we learn from Paul's reaction to the idolatry of Athens, and from his actions in the synagogue and in the marketplace?

- How can we apply what we learn from the way Paul addressed the philosophers in the Areopagus?