

- Paul declares God's story: resurrection! (31)

Apollo, in mythology: "Once a man dies and the earth drinks up his blood, there is no resurrection."

The quality of the Gospel's presentation often has little to do with its acceptance.

How do we begin to apply this? 3 applications:

- Listen
- Know the Gospel well
- Trust God to work.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Can you think of a time when people have thought your Gospel presentation was babbling?
- When you think of the reality of people's lostness, what effect does it have on us? Do we believe they are lost any more than they do?
- How do we respond to people's lost condition?
- What do you think of the statement: *Everyone is religious. No one is neutral when it comes to God. Either we are God worshippers or idol worshippers. Either we are God lovers or God haters.*
- How can we "look carefully at their objects of worship" with people we meet as Paul did the Athenians?
- As we listen to people's story, why can we assume their story is corrupted by sin (they are interpreting life sinfully) even though it will contain much truth, without being self-righteous?

Acts 17:16-34: Athens and the Gospel Story

Jerry Cisar: June 16, 2010

Intro: Paul is in Athens

Paul's audience (vs. 17): Jews, God-fearers, worldly philosophers.

The Gospel comes to people in their story, corrects their story, and offers them a way to get into God's story!

I. The Gospel comes to people in their story...

- Everyone has a story.

- vs. 22-23: Paul enters into their story...

- If the gospel is true, then lost men are really lost!

Francis Shaeffer: "...there is common ground between the Christian and the non-Christian because regardless of a man's system he has to live in God's world."

Tedd Tripp: "The person your child becomes is a product of two things. The first is his life experience.... The second is how he interacts with that experience. He is not merely acted upon by the circumstances of life. He reacts. He responds according to the Godward orientation of his heart."

The lost people we come across have their story; it will naturally blameshift, reinterpret, alter the truth to protect themselves.

- The Gospel corrects the best of man's wisdom.

- 1 Cor 1:18-24

III. The Gospel offers them a way into God's story...

- **Look carefully at their objects of worship!**

- Proverbs 20:5

II. The Gospel corrects their story...

- The Gospel does not leave people in their story.
- The Gospel assumes their story has been corrupted by sin.

- The Gospel calls people to repent and believe! (30-31)

Into this lostness, we now present a Savior. One who saves them from their sins!