

— Acts 17.16-34 —
Contemporary Issues 2018 – 1
Is the Bible Culturally Conditioned?

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. 18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbling man want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed ...

* What is meant by the charge that the Bible is "culturally conditioned"? How is that charge used today?

* The first thing we need to note about that charge is ...

* "If the Bible is culturally conditioned, it is the ... job of cultural conditioning in history."

* Spiritually, the Roman empire was dominated by ...

* It was considered a virtue to ...

* The chapel of Emperor Severus contained shrines to Orpheus, Apollonius, ...

* The Athenians thought Paul was ...

* The essence of what Paul proclaimed to them was ...

* Paul gives them six fundamental truths about the one true God that makes him different from the Greco-Roman gods:

- 1) The one true God is ...

- 2) The one true God is ...

- 3) The one true God is also ...

- 4) The one true God is ...

- 5) This is the true nature of ...

- 6) The one true God is ...

* These six truths about the one true God is the word of ... and it is the greatest word of ... Yet nothing could have been more ...

* Sexuality is not mentioned in our text, but ... This is an embedded, ... Second only to being a ..., man is a ...

* God made us for two kinds of ...

* The people of the ancient world embraced many gods, and every form of ... Many temples were staffed with ...

- * The great Roman statesman, Cicero, wrote ...
- * Pederasty was also ...
- * The Greek and Roman gods practiced ...
- * Divorce was ...
- * Into this culture came the Christians preaching that sex ...
- * As with spirituality, the Christian message on sexuality was basically ...
- * If the Christians had embraced asceticism ...
- * The Hellenistic view was that all evil was ... This led to two apparently contradictory, yet complimentary lifestyles ...
- * Christianity rejected ...
- * Counter argument #1: Christianity did not out-right prohibit and abolish ...
- * The big "E" on the eye chart is ...
- * Here's what modern secularists are missing ...
- * Jesus taught us that the Kingdom works like ...
- * But fallen man wants ... But pagan ... is not really ...
- * Counter argument 2: The Bible is culturally conditioned by ...
- * The Bible shows that Jewish culture, left to itself ...
- * What did Israel do after God brought her out of Egypt?
- * What does God rebuke Israel for in Ezekiel 16?
- * What happens in Judges 19?
- * The Bible accommodates our ..., but it does not ...
- * The charge that the Bible is "culturally conditioned" is an attempt to ...
- * Had Christianity been culturally conditioned, ...
- * Our culture wants the Bible to be ...
- * The values and felt needs of our culture are ...
- * If we cease to speak this word, we will be ...
- * Obeying Jesus, we must ...