

Application: Is the Bible Culturally Conditioned?

Acts 17¹⁶ 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 market-place 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

► In our study of Genesis, we have paused from time to time to make _____ on points of special significance (e.g., the Tower of Babel in ch 11).

► One of the main contentions of our contemporary culture is that the Bible is "_____ conditioned."

► The box modern secularists have built to lock away the Bible is one modern secularism would have to be _____ away in as well.

► If the Bible is culturally conditioned, it is the _____ job of cultural conditioning in history.

► Spiritually, the Roman empire was dominated by the worship of many gods. _____ is a good example.

► The culture was a _____ of three things:
– 1) _____

– 2) Radical _____

– Higher powers

– Entertainment

– 3) Growing _____

– Private truth

– Public truth

► Does this cocktail seem familiar?

► The Athenians are initially excited to hear what Paul will proclaim, for they assumed it would _____ right in. But then Paul proclaims there is only _____ true God, and He is _____ at all like the gods they worship (24-29).

► What 7 truths about the one true God did Paul proclaim?

► 1) The one true God is _____, sustainer, and governor of all things (24, 26).

► 2) The one true God is _____ (24-25, 29).

► 3) The one true God is _____ (25, 27-28).

► 4) The one true God is _____ (29-30).

► 5) The true nature of _____ is not that we are connected with matter, but that we are disconnected from the one true God (23, 29-30).

► 6) The one true God is _____ and has provided the way of restored fellowship to Him and of immortality (30-31).

2Tim 1⁸ God,⁹ ... has saved us ..., not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

► 7) The one true God has raised His ordained Man from the dead, thus making Him _____ & _____ (31).

Rm 1¹ the gospel of God ...³ concerning His Son, who was ...⁴ ... declared to be the Son of God in power ... by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith ... among all the nations

► These 7 truths are the gospel, the word of the Bible, the word committed to the Church, and the greatest word of _____ the world has ever known, yet nothing could have been more _____ to the values and felt needs of the ancient world. It was a declaration that everything they had believed and based their lives on was _____. It was also a direct affront to the claims of _____ and the Empire.

Jn 3¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life ...¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Acts 17⁶ "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. ⁷... [They] are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus."