

Acts 17:16-34

Being “Too Cool to Care” is Chilling to the Soul

Paul’s Initial Ministry in Athens v16-18

- 1: Paul interacted with Jews and God-fearers in the synagogue
- 2: Paul interacted with average people in the marketplace
- 3: Paul interacted with some philosophers, who correctly understood that the core of his message concerned Jesus and His resurrection.

Paul’s Ministry at the Areopagus in Athens v19-34

The Setting v19-21

The elite thinkers of Athens were “open” to all kinds of “new” concepts and philosophies, so they encouraged Paul to share with them

The Message from Paul to the Philosophers v22-31

The Introduction v22-23

Paul starts where his audience was: you are very religious! So much so you recognize the existence of (what you call) “The Unknown God!”

The Body v24-31

Paul moves from truth about God based on General Revelation (Psalm 19 and Romans 1) to specific truth about Jesus and human accountability to God.

Key Statement 1: God made from one man every nation of mankind...that they should seek God and perhaps feel their way to Him and find Him

Key Statement 2: God commands all people everywhere to repent, He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in +R by a man, whom He has appointed...He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.

The Response 32-34

- 1: Many of the “open-minded” philosophical thinkers, were totally closed to even considering the possibility of bodily resurrection from the dead. YET: these’ scoffers who were “too cool” to look inward/then upward to God in humility were “hot to trot” that is eager to look around them in pride/contempt.
- 2: Other philosophers however were open to the possibility of future interaction with Paul/the Gospel.
- 3: Bottom Line: Some of the Athenians did believe in Christ including well known and citizens Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris.

Take This To Heart

Being “Too Cool to Care”...is Spiritual Deadsville!

God gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud.

Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, and the fool declares in his heart there is no God. IOWs: They categorically (on faith!) insist that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Triune God of Scripture isn't real.

Everybody “believes in” (some form of God/god)...you can find that “their deity” in/at the center of his/her values/priorities, worldview and self-concept.

When people stop believing in (the true) God, they don't believe in nothing...
...it's worse than that, they'll believe in anything.

Being Too Concerned about Looking “Cool” Has a Chilling Spiritual Effect Even on Regenerate Christians

To truly understand and appreciate the grace of God in a believer's life produces a graciousness toward the weaknesses of His children/Children, which leads to love/service even to unlovely/unappreciative people in our lives.