

“SOME NEW THING”

Acts 17:18-21

Theme: Witnessing to those who are ignorant of God

WBC, Sunday a.m., September 18, 2022, Pastor Dan Unruh

I. PAUL’S SPIRIT IN THE MARKET – *now while Paul waited (16-21)*

A. The Action of the Apostle (18-21)

B. The Counter-Argument of the Athenians (18-21)

1. The Athenians Encountered Paul (18)

a. The **C**ounter-argument of the word Encountered – *encountered him*

b. The **D**istinction of those who Encountered – *certain philosophers*

“The Stoics held that duty and virtue were man’s supreme goals; the Epicureans held that pleasure was the supreme good.” (Custer)

Epicureanism – *atheistic*: there is no God.

Stoicism – *theistic*: everything is God.

“Epicureans said ‘Enjoy life!’ and Stoics said ‘Enjoy life!’” (Wiersbe)

“Stoicism and Epicureanism represent alternative attempts in pagan-Christian paganism to come to terms with life, especially in times of uncertainty and hardship, and pagan-Christian paganism down to our own day has not been able to devise anything appreciably better.” (F.F. Bruce)

“The two enemies [Christianity] has ever had to contend with are the two ruling principles of the Epicureans and Stoics—Pleasure and Pain.” (Howson)

Both would preach, “Eat and drink for tomorrow we die.” (Robertson)

c. The **S**ignificance of the Encounter – *“seemeth”*

“Some” considered Paul a “babbler,” a “silly-picker.”

2. The Athenians Encountered Paul (19-21)

a. The **P**urpose (19a)

b. The **P**urpose (19b-21)

1) The purpose **STATED PURPOSELY** (20)

2) The purpose **STATED HONORABLY** (21)

“They could not wait to hear something new than the last new thing they had heard.” (Custer)

II. PAUL’S SIGNIFICANCE ON MAR’S HILL – *then Paul stood (22-34)*