

ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week

Acts 17:10-34

More Resources

In Acts 17:16, Luke, the author of the Book of Acts writes, "While Paul was waiting for them (that is, Silas and Timothy) in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols." I think it's possible the Apostle Paul might make a similar observation in our day. Listen to this brief video by Tim Keller, as he shares some of the reasons why he wrote his book *Counterfeit Gods*. Please click [HERE](#) or on the video to watch.



Keller writes, "What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living."

Does any of that sound familiar? To learn more about Tim Keller's book, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*, please click [HERE](#).



A Road Trip to Athens

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which part of this week's reading and video caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God?

BECOMING A "BEREAN" CHRISTIAN (ACTS 17:10-15)

- What can we learn from the Bereans about how to evaluate the truthfulness of the things we are being taught?
- What do you think might have motivated the people from Thessalonica to follow Paul and his friends to Berea in an attempt to disrupt the good work Paul, Timothy, Silas and Luke were attempting to do?

IDOLS THEN AND NOW (ACTS 17:16-18)

- After being run out of town, Paul heads to Athens. While waiting for Silas and Timothy, how did Paul spend his time?
- Describe the various reactions Paul received to his teaching. How did the gospel contrast with the religious and cultural perspectives of many of the Athenians?
- Tim Keller says, "An idol is anything that is more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life or identity." Idols are not necessarily based on bad things. We can make an idol out of a good thing if we turn it into an ultimate thing in our lives." What are some examples of idols in our lives today that promise us a lot but don't deliver on their promises?
- Why are we tempted to put the full weight of our lives down on other

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential.



TO REVIEW COURSE VIDEOS, please click [HERE](#)

Notes from the Video and Discussion

What insights, questions, challenges, encouragements are you taking with you? Record your thoughts and any action steps you intend to take in the space below.

things, people, experiences, whether they be good or bad, instead of on Jesus Christ? In other words, why are we prone to entrust ourselves to things other than God? What does that look like in your own life?

- What has helped you entrust your life to Jesus when you have been tempted to make even good things, ultimate things. See Tim Keller's book on Counterfeit Gods mentioned on page 1 of this handout.

SHARING THE GOSPEL IN CONTEXT (ACTS 17:19-34)

- How did Paul present the gospel to the Athenians on the Areopagus? What was the outline of his argument? How did he try and connect with the people to whom he was speaking?
- Think of someone in your life who is not a follower of Jesus. As you seek to share the good news of Jesus with them, how might Paul's example guide you?

PART 1 REVIEW OF ACTS TO REVELATION

- This week is the last meeting of Part 1 of Acts to Revelation. What have been some of the highlights you're taking away from this course?
- Share prayer request and pray for one another.