

Beacon – Week 2 – 2-11-24 – Pastor Guy

1. What does 'being a beacon' look like to you?
2. Why is being a beacon important?

Acts 17:16-18 - While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

3. Athens had physical statues and temples that people set up to worship as idols. What do people set up as idols in their life today?

Pastor Guy mentioned the worldview that existed when Acts was written:

- **God is a mystery** (We can't know him)
 - **Don't judge me**
 - **You decide** – which god you'll worship and how you will live
 - **Let your feelings be your guide** (what makes me happy)
4. How is this worldview similar to society's worldview today?
 5. Would you agree with how Pastor Guy characterized today's worldview?
 - **Feelings are the ultimate guide** (trust your feelings)
 - **Happiness is the ultimate goal**
 - **Judging is the ultimate sin**
 - **God is the ultimate mystery**
 6. How do you feel about these ideas?
 7. In what ways do you personally think this way?

Acts 17:22-31 - Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

8. The people of Athens had as many as 30,000 different gods that they worshipped. Why is it a problem to say that all religions lead to heaven?
9. God is a mystery, but God sent his Son Jesus to reveal the mystery of who he is to us. In what ways does Jesus show us who God is?
10. Why is it important to not only live Christ-like lives, but also share who Jesus is with others?

Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

John 14:15 - If you love me, keep my commands. (Jesus)

11. According to these two scripture passages, why is it important to do what God asks us to do?
12. What can we expect if we choose not to obey God?
13. What has God asked you to do that you find hard to do?
14. Pastor Guy mentioned B.L.E.S.S. again this week. Who are you intentionally B.L.E.S.S.ing?
15. How has that been going?
 - B. - Begin with prayer for others.
 - L. – Listen to others.
 - E. – Eat with others.
 - S. – Serve others.
 - S. – Share love, your story and Jesus with others.

Acts 17:32-34 - When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." ³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed.

16. What responses to sharing the gospel can we expect based on what we read in Acts 17:32-34?
17. How will you be a beacon this week?
18. Who is God sending you to be a light to?