

CrossWalk **notes**

It's about Time A Time of Grace

November 14-15, 2020 / Jeff Gunn

¹⁶ 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 babbling 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**. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "**May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?**"

²⁰ You are bringing some **strange ideas** to our ears, and **we would like to know what they mean**." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) **Acts 17:16-21, NIV**

Am I _____ to see people frittering away their time of grace? Do I see opportunities to get people I care about to _____ their _____ about God?

²² 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.**" **Acts 17:22-31, NIV**

Do I feel the _____ of helping others keep the " _____ " of a relationship with Jesus always in mind?

³² 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. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others. **Acts 17:32-34, NIV**

Am I _____ when even one person says to me, "Let's _____ about God?"

MEMORY VERSE

³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and **that rock was Christ.** **1 Corinthians 10:3-5, NIV**

My next step: I will use my time of grace to point others to the "Big Rock" as the best strategy to keep the "Big Rock" at the center of everything in my own life.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your communication card.

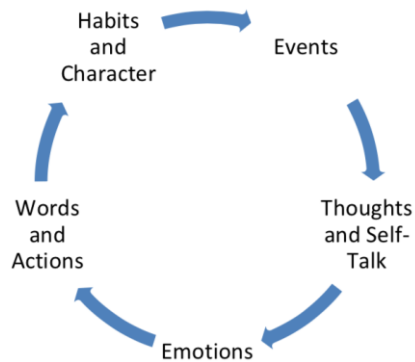
Impact Groups

It's about Time: A Time of Grace

Getting Started: If you had to make the case that this Thanksgiving is going to be “the best Thanksgiving ever!” how would you make that case?

Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday's message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this week?



Read Acts 17:16-17

¹⁶ 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. **Acts 17:16-17, NIV**

In the NT, the verb “distressed” occurs at Acts 17:16; it is said of Paul that when he saw pagan Athens, his spirit was provoked or incensed in him.” The expression seeks to emphasize the honest anger of the apostle. (Theological Dict. of the N.T.)

What was Paul distressed, provoked or incensed about? Do you relate to his emotions here? Can you empathize? Do you affirm Paul's response to his feelings (v. 17)?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:25-30

The Christian life is a matter of maintaining tension between our Christian freedom and our love for our neighbor. Have you recently experienced a tension like this? What did you learn from your experience?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

God's glory ultimately has to do with his desire to save people. Why is this important to remember when we get into disagreements with others?

My Next Step

Commit as a group to reading the YouVersion Bible reading plan: How To Love People You Disagree With. Who is someone that you have had a recent disagreement with that you might want to reach out? What is your next step?

Doing Life Together

Bring your SHAPE assessment results to group next time and share one thing that helped you become clearer on how you want to serve God and others.

Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

Reminders

Fall Outreach at CrossWalk: Check the Church Center App.

- November: Feed a Family (more details to come)