

On the Road Again!

Paul's second
missionary journey

To The Ends of The Earth
A Journey Through The Book of Acts: Part Nine

Week 8: Strange Ideas

Date: October 17th, 2021

† Destination, Athens
Acts 17:10-15



† When in Athens...
Acts 17:16-21

† Let's get philosophical: *Epicureanism*. +/- 307 B.C.

- Chief goal of life is to seek modest, sustainable pleasure through the elimination of fear, a troubled soul, and bodily pain.
- Emphasis placed on pleasures of mind over physical pleasure
- Rejects superstition and concept of 'divine intervention.' If God exists, he (or they) have no role in life. Rejects afterlife.
- Existence is intrinsically SELF-centered, SELF-dependent.

† Let's get philosophical: *Stoicism*. Early third century B.C.

- Chief goal of life is reason based ethical virtue. Contrasted with Epicureanism, the 'good life' is *not* circumstantial, but found thru ethical virtues in the midst of any circumstance.
- Inner virtue is source of happiness, and strong emotions of any kind are to be avoided. Goal is immunity to the emotional pain of misfortune. This gave rise to the concept of 'stoic calm.'
- God is seen not as a person, but as living force of the universe, embodied through all living things. Yoda, anyone?
- Existence is intrinsically SELF-centered, SELF-dependent.

† Strange Ideas: *The good news about Jesus and the resurrection*

- Humanities fallen nature and our need of REDEMPTION.

We have no power to save ourselves, we are wholly dependent on the Grace of God- which means the pressure is OFF!

Romans 3:10-11, 20-24

- The personal and present nature of God

God's heart toward humanity isn't indifference or anger, it is sacrificial LOVE.
Imagine that! God isn't angry with you...

- Matters such as pleasure, contentment, reason, emotions, and ethical virtues all have their place- but they are neither the SOURCE nor the GOAL of life.
Our source is Christ, and our goal is the GLORY of God.
Ephesians 1:3-6

Life is now Christ centered, and our greatest expression of worship and glory to God is how we....

† As disciples of Jesus, what makes us strange today?