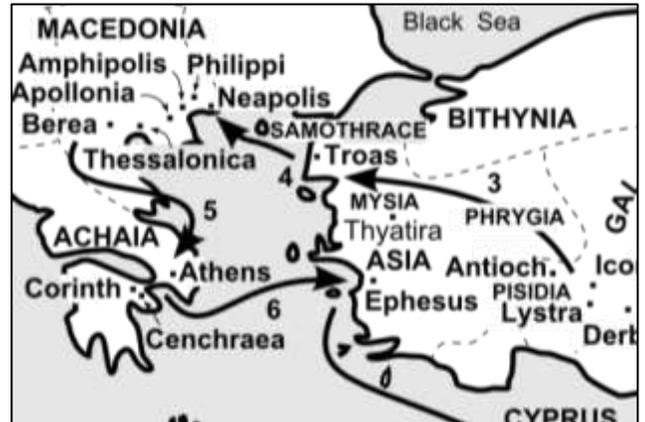


# Paul

## Week 3: Distress Signal – Acts 17:16-17

**Weekly Summary:** When Paul went to Athens, he was distressed over all the idols and empty religion he saw there. That's why Paul went out into the midst of the Athenians to preach the good news of Jesus to them! The sin and unbelief of people in our world is just as distressing now as when Paul saw it. That's why God tells us to "go and tell." We don't sit and wait for people to come to us. We go to find them, so that we can share our soul-saving message!



- ❖ **Acts 17:16** – While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.
  
- ❖ **Matthew 13:50** – "... blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."  
**2 Thessalonians 1:9** – "[They] will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might."  
**Mark 9:48** – "... the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched."
  
- ❖ **Psalm 16:11** – You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.  
**Revelation 21:3-4** – "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
  
- ❖ **John 3:36** – "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."
  
- Distressed Christians say, "They must \_\_\_\_\_!"

- ❖ **Acts 17:17** – 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.
  - Determined Christians say, “I must \_\_\_\_\_!”
  
- ❖ **Mark 16:15** – “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”
- Matthew 28:19** – “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Luke 10:3** – “Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”
  
- ❖ **Matthew 20:18-19** – “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

## Questions for Further Study

1. Paul saw people who were very dedicated to their gods in Athens. What “gods” dominate our society today, and how do people show dedication to them?
2. Here’s a quote from the Indian mystic Ramakrishna: “Different creeds (beliefs) are but different paths to reach the same God.” Analyze this in light of today’s reading.
3. Look also at 2 Kings 18:16-39 and John 14:6. How do these reinforce the exclusive claim that the Christian faith makes for itself? (Or: “How is the God of the Bible incompatible with the idea that all gods lead to the same heaven?”)
4. Why are we sometimes tempted to think that those of other “god-groups” will turn out alright? Why would it be advantageous for Satan to convince us of that lie?
5. Does Living Savior do a good job of fostering a “go”-mindset for its member Christians? Regardless of your answer, how can we, as a church, improve in this area?
6. Does an emphasis on individual evangelism mean that all “come and see” efforts are a waste of time? Are there any ways that we might better capitalize on those types of opportunities?

## Next Steps

1. **Share today’s message** with a friend or family member who you think might benefit from hearing it.
2. **Read Acts 16:16-40** to prepare for next week’s finale from our series: *Paul*.
3. Make a list of friends and family members who need to hear the good news of Jesus ... and share it with them!