

Becoming Witnesses

Acts 17:16-31

Athens was an _____ setting in which to share the gospel. Speaking before the Areopagus was like arguing before the Supreme Court. The dominant philosophers of Athens, the Epicureans and Stoics, held views _____ with the gospel, and the visual "competition" was intense. Paul preached while literally standing in the shadow of the greatest _____ ever built. Despite these intimidating obstacles, Paul's sermon was effective. Here are a few reasons for Paul's effectiveness.

The Bible refers to Paul being "greatly distressed" about the idolatry of Athens. He was _____ about the lost—a _____ of people. The famous text about love, 1 Cor. 13, was Paul's appeal for us to love others _____ loved them, so that when we see the condition, the brokenness of their souls, it _____ us. Let us pray for God to break our hearts for the people around us who need to be rescued that we might be unintimidated by neither the _____ nor even by the _____ himself.

Paul was also _____. He had been sharing the gospel daily. Practice talking about the gospel. You'll get better and you'll gain confidence. Who knows, it might prepare you for an opportunity of a witness coming your way.

But most importantly, Paul was successful because he knew the _____—we were created with a _____ - _____ in our souls that longs to be filled.

Not everyone was sick and tired of _____ that _____ of striving for soul-satisfaction up the hill, but a few were. What Paul said rang true with them and they believed. The _____ God found a _____ in Athens because Paul was persuaded that he had the answer they were searching for: _____.

Are you absolutely persuaded of that? If you are, it's because you have found your _____ in Jesus. If you aren't, there must be a _____ left to be filled and a burdensome _____ to stop pushing.