

***Provoked by Idolatry***  
**Acts 17:16-34**

Main Point:

You should be provoked by the idolatry of those around you; therefore, respond to the need of mankind by engaging them with the gospel.

1. The idolatry of those around you should provoke you to bring the gospel to them.

2. Depending on who the person is should determine how you go about doing this.

3. But the application is always to be the same: the person needs to repent or he will be judged.

4. There is hope when you engage people with the gospel because Jesus Christ is mighty to save.

**Derek Thomas** “He saw something that moved him to tears - sights and sounds that portrayed man’s fundamental idolatry and rejection of God.”

**R. Kent Hughes** “As believers, our hearts should ache and our eyes blur at what we see around us - ignorant souls denying the one God and giving allegiance to false deities. If we experience no inner paroxysms, we either have not truly been redeemed by Jesus Christ or we have become apathetic to the things of God.”

**Dennis Johnson** “In contrast to the Epicureans’ view of the gods as aloof and the Stoic view of the divine as a principle immersed in the universe, Paul announced the Creator who is distinct from the world but also engages with his creatures, who rules as Lord and supplies ‘life and breath and everything’.”

**Romans 1:20** <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (NKJV)

**Dennis Johnson** “This speech is an invaluable and unparalleled model for our communication of the unchanging gospel in our increasingly pagan and biblically ignorant culture.”

**Derek Thomas** “Man’s religions are his greatest crimes ...”

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** <sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (NKJV)

**Mark 10:25-27** <sup>25</sup> "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men *it is* impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." (NKJV)