

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Credo: The First Article

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is something you do/have experienced in your life that makes you feel fulfilled?

Reading: Acts 17:22-34

Outline:

- I. There is a Creator. (v. 22-28)
 - a. There are intersections between society and Christianity that point to a creator, such as a longing for justice, but societal views of it are incomplete because they lack God.
 - b. There's a reason for these longings. Don't dismiss them, but rather engage with society.
Q: How do we find God when He feels far away, as he doesn't live in "temples?"
- II. We are offspring of the Creator. (v. 29)
 - a. We get our origin from God, not the other way around.
 - b. We can't tell God who He is; He doesn't fit in our boxes. We know Him from His actions and self-revelation in His Word. Humbly confess what He's revealed about Himself.
Q: How can we rid ourselves of images we've constructed of God in our minds?
- III. Turn to the Creator. (v. 30-31)
 - a. Since we are God's offspring, we are accountable to Him. It's harsh, but judgment and death is the reality of living life apart from the Source.
 - b. Within our pursuit of wrath lies an invitation: the same one who judges the world has called us to Himself and laid down His life for us. If you trust in him, you already have life.
Q: What were the "times of ignorance" Paul speaks of?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Do you experience a longing for God in any areas of your life?
- 2) What have you turned to for life and fulfillment instead of God?
- 3) How can you find your fulfillment in God while still using those things for His glory?
- 4) Have you defined God/ boxed Him in in a way that isn't Biblical? How?
- 5) In what areas of your life is God calling you to hold yourself accountable to Him this week?

Suggestions for further study:

- Genesis 1-2 **Q: How are humans made in God's image and likeness?**
- Ephesians 2:1-10 **Q: How do we know what the works are that God has "prepared" for us?**
- Romans 1:18-32 **Q: What were the "lies" men gave up God's truth for? What are they today?**

Closing Prayer: *Gracious God, You have made us to live as Your children, to live as Your creatures, and to receive life from You. But Lord, in our sin and rebellion, we seek to find life in ourselves. And Lord, you've made it known that to seek after such things is to seek after death and judgment. We ask that Your spirit would work in us to continually turn our hearts back to You. We pray that we may know You as our Father and Creator, and know Your Son as the one who has come that we might have life. We pray this all in His name, Amen.*

