



lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – APRIL 11, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

Please check your bulletin and the website (www.lyona.org) each week for additional information.

- **THEOS/Life Group Leader Meeting:** We will be holding a meeting on Sunday, April 25 from Noon-1pm in B6. More information to following via e-mail. This will be a brown bag meeting (bring your own lunch).
- **THEOS:** A new semester started Sunday, March 14 beginning at 9am.
- **Sportsman's Banquet:** This year's expo and banquet will be held on Saturday, April 24 starting at 4pm.

Losing Your Religion: Part 2 (Acts 17:16-34)

Questions

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday's message?
2. Think about another religion or denomination of Christendom. Put together as a group a word collage of those religions or denominations. Why is it so easy to label other religions and denominations as weird?
3. Think about your faith. Why is it so easy to be defensive when others label your faith as weird, odd, etc.?
4. Have someone read Acts 17:16-23. From Paul's description of Athens it seemed that the Athenians were religious but not really certain about who they were worshipping. Why was Athens "full of idols"? Why was there an altar to an unknown god?
5. Have someone read Acts 17:24-29. How does Paul explain the unknown god of the Athenians?
6. Have someone read Acts 17:30-31. Religion is about seeking and hopefully in the end finding God. But what does Paul teach these men and women to do? Why is this so important?
7. Have someone read Acts 17:32-34. How did the Athenians respond to Paul's teaching?
8. Do you, after hearing the sermon this Sunday, need to confess anything or repent of anything? What in your life needs to change?

Prayer Requests

A place to write out your groups' prayer requests

SERMON NOTES

Each header with sub-points is a slide used in Sunday morning's PowerPoint presentation.

Text: Acts 17:16-34

Speaker: Michael Fraser

Message: Losing Your Religion: Part 2

When you look outside of your own religious context at other religions it can look very weird!

- Superstition, Mystical, Hocus-pocus, Hypocritical, Legalistic
- The harder and odder something is the more religious it feels.
- Sometimes the best step toward God may be the step away from your religion.

This is what the Apostle Paul tried to explain in Acts 17:16-34 as we see Paul in Athens.

- "Full of idols..."
 - Religious, but not very certain!
 - "To the UNKNOWN GOD"
 - This was the 'just-in-case' god
- Paul used this statue to let the Greeks in Athens know that basically what they were saying was that "you admit there is something else out there... you admit there is something you do not know... you admit there is a gap in your understanding... I would like to talk to you about that!"
- Paul then explains several important things about the Greeks understanding and pursuit of God:
 - Your view of God is too small!
 - You cannot do anything for God!
 - God established the boundaries!
 - Religion is about seeking, reaching, and hopefully finding God... but God is near!
 - Ignorance is no longer an excuse; you are now accountable to repent!
 - The one who we are accountable to has given assurance of your accountability through the resurrection.
- The Greeks response to Paul's appeal was:
 - "We will hear you again about this..."
 - They were putting off a decision under the guise of wanting to know more.

The problem with religion can often be seen in the questions asked by it:

- Religion asks, "Who is right?"
Question though is, "Who is Jesus?"
- Religion asks, "What is truth?"
Question though is, "What has happened?"
- Religion asks, "What does God want from us?"
Question though is, "What has God done for us?"
- Religion asks, "What type of sacrifice do I need to make?"
Question though is, "Do you know the sacrifice God has made for you?"

Paul let the Greeks know that in their attempt to seek truth they haven't been totally wrong...

- Seeking, reaching, looking for God...
- Just incomplete!

Sometimes, you have to lose your religion to find God!