

LIVE OAK CHURCH

Taking A Stand

November 2, 2025

Acts 17:16-34

Faith Is Often The Most Misunderstood Word

I. Faith has 6 primary parts

- A. Evidence
- B. Believing the evidence
- C. Trusting the evidence, where it leads
- D. Maturing/growing in knowledge
- E. Declaring the faith
- F. Contending for the faith

II. Why contending for the faith is needed

- A. We live in perilous times (2 Timothy:3)
 - 1. Loves of self
 - 2. Loves of pleasure
 - 3. Loves of money
 - 4. Disobedient to parent
 - 5. Ungrateful and unholy
- B. Jesus warned of deception
- C. Jesus warned can't serve 2 masters
- D. Throughout the Bible people took a stand
 - 1. Noah
 - 2. Lot

- 3. Joshua
- 4. Daniel
- 5. Stephen
- E. They all contend for faith, spoke up, obeyed God. Didn't go along to get along. Put Jesus over personal comfort.
- F. One day that might be you

III. Paul in Athens

- A. Sees perversion
- B. Sees paganism
- C. Sees false teaching
- D. Sees/hears philosophy of every sort
- E. Sees cynicism, pride, arrogance

IV. Paul confronts idolatry

- A. Idolatry seeks to replace God
- B. Anything can become an idol
- C. Idols/idolatry can/will destroy you
 - 1. Idol of addiction
 - 2. Idol of adultery
 - 3. Idol of alcoholism
 - 4. Idol of gamblingAs idol commands ... the follower does... until they are destroyed

V. What does Paul do? Paul confronts pagans

- A. He sees they are "religious"
- B. He notices the statute to "the unknown God"

C. He tries to meet them where they are

VI. Paul confronts the Philosophers

- A. Stoic philosophers
 - 1. Life has no meaning
 - 2. Epicureans can't make sense out of life

VII. Paul confronts the Pharisees

- A. The religious
- B. The ones who acknowledge God, but don't obey
- C. The ones not convinced Jesus is Lord
- D. Ones who promote self-righteousness

VIII. Paul's confident declaration

- A. The God he serves is the Creator
- B. He is the author of love
- C. He is the judge of humanity
- D. He judges by Jesus
- E. He gives proof of Resurrection
- F. He offers salvation
- G. Nothing compares to Jesus

IX. Paul is concerned

- A. About people who fill temples, but are themselves empty
- B. Who are lost, who will spend Eternity without Jesus
- C. Whose lives are on a trajectory with disaster

X. Three responses when you contend

- A. Division
- B. Delay - some other time
- C. Decision
- D. The story of the Sultan
 - 1. A disaster
 - 2. Many did not heed warning
 - 3. 1,861 perished

XI. We live in perilous times

- A. Civil unrest
- B. Attacks on Christians
- C. Wars/rumors of wars
- D. Political shutdown
- E. Calling good evil, evil good
- F. Signs in the Heavens
- G. Division on every level

**Will You Contend For The Faith?
You Are An Influence
Bring To Heaven As Many As You Can**