



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 24:**  
**“If Jesus is The Truth, Why Don't More College**  
**Professors Become Christians?”**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 17:16-34; Romans 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:21-2:8**

1. Why was Paul's spirit so provoked/distressed by the idols of Athens (Acts 17:16)? How does his evangelism (in both the private synagogue and the public marketplace) serve as a model for us (Acts 17:17; 1 Corinthians 9:23)?
  
2. What was this “new teaching” that Paul was presenting to them (Acts 17:19) and why did it sound strange to them (Acts 17:20)? How does Luke describe their approach to philosophy in Acts 17:21? Do you know anyone who takes a similar approach?
  
3. Why can human wisdom never lead us to discover ultimate truth (Isaiah 40:13-14)? How did the Athenians' human wisdom lead them to become proud (Acts 17:18, 32)? What is the irony of their pride according to Paul (Acts 17:23c and 30a)?
  
4. Even as Christians, how are we in danger of being consumed by the pursuit of human wisdom? Why does pride so naturally result from this pursuit? What should be the focus of our pursuit instead of human wisdom (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10)?

5. How does the pursuit of human wisdom lead to idolatry (*Acts 17:29; Romans 1:22-23*)? Why do we have the tendency to replace the truth of God with a false imitation of that truth? How does our desire for control relate to this struggle?
  
6. Institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Princeton, etc. are considered to be centers for human wisdom. Why is the "soil" in these places not fertile for God's revealed truth? Have you ever conversed with people from places similar to these about God?
  
7. How is the message of Jesus Christ foolishness to the world and human wisdom (*1 Corinthians 1:18-21, 25; 2:4-8*)? Are you humbled when you think about the wisdom of God? How should you respond to Him and His truth today (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)?

**Memory Verse:**

**"All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas."  
(Acts 17:21, NIV)**