

Evening Service

May 19, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Cracking the Hard Shell of Idolatry

Acts 17:16–31

WELCOME AND INVOCATION TO WORSHIP

SINGING TOGETHER (Congregation Stands)

“Guide Me, O Great Jehovah”

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

“Life Up Your Heads”

PRAYER FOR THE GATHERING

GOD’S GREETING AND GREETING EACH OTHER

OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:16–31

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE: “Cracking the Hard Shell of Idolatry” Acts 17:16–31

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSE SONG (Congregation stands)

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“All Hail King Jesus”

Rev. Kirby Willams

Worship Leader – Byron Cox

I. Introduction

II. Meditation on Acts 17:16–31.

A. Context

B. Paul confronts the idolatry of Athens.

1. Paul’s vexation, vs. 16.

2. Working in Athens, vs. 17–21.

a. In the synagogue, vs. 17a.

b. In the market place, vs. 17b.

c. Confronting the culture, vs. 18a.

i. The Epicureans.

ii. The Stoics.

d. Reaction to Paul’s teaching, vs. 18b–20.

3. At the Aeropagus, vs. 22–31.

a. Paul’s evangelistic methodology, vs. 22–28.

i. Making a connection.

ii. Finding a “hammer”.

· The idol of the unknown god, vs. 22–23.

· Starting with the transcendent God,
vs. 24–26.

· Ending with the immanent God vs. 27–28a.

· Made in His image, vs. 28b.

b. Destroying idols, vs. 29–31.

i. The degrading nature of idols, vs. 29.

ii. The razor’s edge of the Gospel, vs. 30.

iii. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, vs. 31.

III. Application

A. A little history: searching for a solution.

1. Starting with God.

2. Focused on the Bible.

3. The power of “story”.

4. The importance of personal evangelism.

5. The “missing link”.

B. Finding the crack and wielding the hammer!

1. Exposing their idols.

2. Exposing their worship.

3. Exposing their slavery, John 8:34.

4. Exposing their hard outer shell.

5. Sharing the Good News.

6. Praying for the Holy Spirit to do His work.

7. Implementing a “follow-up” plan.

IV. Conclusion