

## Truth in a world of mixed messages

Experiencing Joy This Christmas

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**MAIN IDEA:** The Gospel has the answers for humanity and has the power to transform our culture.

### 1. The Gospel is Public not Private

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. Acts 17:16-17*

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. Acts 17:22-23*

If you understand the Gospel and live consistently with it, it will not stay in your private world.

### 2. The Gospel Transforms the Culture

*"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. Acts 17:24*

*'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' Acts 17:28*

Culture is not the enemy. It is an opportunity.

### 3. The Gospel Requires a Response

*When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." Acts 17:32*

*Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Acts 17:34*

When Jesus sees a wrecked life, he sees something he can work with.