

# HE MUST INCREASE

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## He Must Increase... *In Our County*

### **Warm-Up Question:**

Where have you seen brokenness in our county? What are the biggest needs?

**READ: Acts 17:16-34**

### **I. IN CITRUS AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: MISSIONAL PROVOCATION**

- ▶ Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What is God communicating to his people who were going to live in exile in Babylon? How does it relate to what we are called to do?
- ▶ Describe what provoked Paul as he walked around Athens (v. 16)?
- ▶ What is an “idol,” & how do you know when something becomes an “idol” in life? What are some “idols” in our hearts, culture, and here in Citrus County?

### **II. IN CITRUS AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: MISSIONAL POSTURE**

- ▶ V. 17 says that Paul “reasoned” with them. How does this relate to what God calls all of us to do in Col. 4:5-6?
- ▶ Who are some “outsiders” you know from where you live, work, or play? Describe any opportunities you’ve had to build relationships, to serve, or to share Christ with them.

### **III. IN CITRUS AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: MISSIONAL PERSON**

- ▶ What did he communicate about who God is through his message in v. 24-31?
- ▶ What did he communicate about Jesus (v. 31)? How does the resurrection of Jesus make a difference with the idols in our heart, culture and county?
- ▶ What is one way you’d like to live differently to love your “outsider” neighbors or to have more impact toward the flourishing of citrus county?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

### For Prayer Time:

- ▶ Pray for our church to love and seek the welfare of citrus county.
- ▶ Pray for your own opportunities to get to know and to love unchurched neighbors around you.



SEVEN RIVERS  
CHURCH

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## Scripture Passages Used:

**Acts 17:16** Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. **17** So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. **18** Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? **20** For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” **21** Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

**Acts 17:22** So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. **24** The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **25** nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. **26** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, **27** that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, **28** for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

**Acts 17:29** Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. **30** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31** because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**Acts 17:32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” **33** So Paul went out from their midst. **34** But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

**Jer. 29:4** “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

**Col. 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.