

HE **MUST** INCREASE

LINK TO
WATCH SERMON



LINK TO LISTEN
TO SERMON



He Must Increase... *In our 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
C H U R C H

He Must Increase... In Our County

Acts 17:16-34

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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.