

# Week 10 Paul's Method of Gospel Apologetics

## 1. Objectives

- 1) Understand the apologetic approach of Apostle Paul
  - 2) Analyze different strategies toward Jews and Gentiles
  - 3) Apply Pauline principles to modern apologetics
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## 2. Key Texts

- 1) Acts 17:16–34 (Areopagus speech)
  - 2) 1 Corinthians 1:18–25
  - 3) Galatians 1:6–9
  - 4) Romans 1:16–17
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## 3. Core Characteristics of Paul's Apologetics

### 1) Gospel-Centeredness

- (1) Focus on the gospel, not human philosophy
  - (2) Centrality of the cross
  - (3) The message may seem foolish, but it is God's power
  - (4) Goal: Not mere persuasion, but proclamation of salvation
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### 2) Contextual Approach

- (1) To Jews
    - ① Use of Old Testament
    - ② Emphasis on fulfillment of prophecy
  - (2) To Gentiles
    - ① Use of philosophy and natural revelation
    - ② Emphasis on Creator God
    - ③ Same gospel, different methods
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### 3) Dependence on the Holy Spirit

- (1) Not based on human wisdom
  - (2) Power comes from God
  - (3) Apologetics works through the Spirit, not logic alone
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### 4) Exclusivity of Truth

- (1) Strong rejection of false gospels (Gal 1:8)
  - (2) Truth is not negotiable
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#### 4. Key Examples

##### 1) Areopagus (Acts 17)

- (1) Philosophical engagement
- (2) “Unknown god” concept
- (3) Focus on creation, judgment, resurrection

##### 2) Synagogue Reasoning

- (1) Scripture-based argument
  - (2) Jesus as the Messiah
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#### 5. Modern Application

- 1) Adapt methods to context
  - 2) Never compromise the gospel
  - 3) Use philosophy, science, and culture wisely
  - 4) Keep Christ at the center
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#### 6. Discussion Questions

- 1) Why did Paul adapt his apologetic method?
  - 2) How can we defend the gospel without compromising it?
  - 3) Why is the message of the cross still rejected today?
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#### 7. Assignment

- 1) Analyze Acts 17 and outline Paul’s apologetic structure
- 2) Develop a modern apologetic strategy for atheism or pluralism