



The 63rd Regular Convention BIBLE STUDY 3

Study Theme: **ONE Message—Christ!**
A Message of Unity to a Sectarian Culture

Leader: **Dr. Dean Nadasdy, LCMS Third Vice President**

Dr. Dean Nadasdy serves as Third Vice President of the Synod and senior pastor at Woodbury Lutheran Church in Woodbury, Minnesota. Before coming to Woodbury, Dean served churches in Eugene, OR (1973-1981), and Edina, MN (1981-1997). He was 1st Vice President of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS for six years (1991-1997). From 1997 to 2000, he served as Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he held the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Chair in Homiletics and Literature. He has also taught as a guest lecturer at seminaries in Latvia and Hungary. He received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI, in 1993. In 1996, Concordia University, Seward, NE, awarded him its Doctor of Letters degree. He has served on the LCMS Board of Communication Services and has written extensively in the areas of child, youth and adult curriculum. He is the author of four LifeLight adult Bible studies and writes worship and preaching resources for pastors. Dean is married to Susan and they are blessed with three children and one grandchild.



Outline

Scripture Focus: Acts 17:16-34

I. Truth Today

- A. Truth today is often self-defined, diluted, and threatened by idolatry.
- B. In literature and film, we see recurring struggles with what is true and what is real.
- C. Paul at Athens exemplifies an uncompromising passion to present the truth of the Scriptures and the truth of Jesus Christ, using the language and imagery of the culture.

II. Notes On The Text

III. Truths in the Text

- A. Sometimes Christians stand "alone."
- B. Cultural icons wait to be broken open and filled with Gospel meaning,
- C. God moves among the nations in His love for humankind.
- D. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ remains an absolute truth in our witness.

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IV. Discussion Questions

1. Where in our culture do you see self-focused, do-it-yourself truth at work?
2. When have you found yourself standing “alone” for the truths of your faith?
3. Where do you see opportunities for the church to “break open” cultural icons?
4. What keeps the LCMS from being a more visible player in our culture’s debate of ideas and truths?
5. What aspect of Paul’s witness in Athens is most significant for our church today?