

Upcoming Events

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 – REGISTER TODAY!

Stop by Children’s Ministry area for VBS info & a prayer calendar

July 6-10, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Ages 4 years – 6th grade

To register or volunteer, visit troymc.org/vbs.

Online registration ends July 2.

VBS WORK DAYS

Families are welcome to help!

Wednesday, July 1, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 2, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

See our website for additional details– troymc.org/events

Message Notes

June 28, 2026

Faith Extended: Athens – Christ in the Marketplace

Acts 17:16-34

Goal of our Faith Extended series: Live our faith outwardly; Extend our faith beyond ourselves!

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. (Acts 17:16)

Responses to Non-Christian Culture:

- Withdrawal - avoid culture in a Christian bubble - preserve distinction but no meaningful witness
- Hostility - fight against culture with outrage - maintain conviction but an unChristlike witness
- Accommodation - adopt culture for approval - maintain connection but loss of distinctiveness

Notes on Athens

- Height of influence in 4th and 5th century BC, but low influence in Paul's time
- Known for multitude of temples and religious monuments
- More interested in ideas than commerce and trade (not a large city)
- Areopagus = elders and chief philosophers AND hill of Ares where they met (Mars Hill)

Paul's response to Athens' pluralistic culture

- Paul did not withdraw - Acts 17:17
- Paul was not hostile - Acts 17:18a, 22b
- Paul did not accommodate - Acts 17:29b-31

Paul practiced ENGAGEMENT

- Entering culture thoughtfully and compassionately without surrendering to it
- The sweet spot between withdrawal, hostility, and accommodation
 - preserves distinction with meaningful interaction with culture
 - maintains conviction with a Christlike witness that loves people
 - maintains connection without losing distinctiveness