

Life's Greatest Questions

The Apostle Paul gave answers to life's greatest questions at Athens, Greece. (Acts 17:16-34)

At first the Greek philosophers thought Paul was a radical, "because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection." They asked Paul to explain this new and "strange" doctrine.

Paul's answers gave the framework of all knowledge, which these idolatrous Greeks did not know. Paul addressed the four greatest questions asked by mankind. Compare Paul's answers with the answers of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.

1. Where did we come from?

Epicureans: Everything began by a cataclysmic event, sort of like the big bang theory.

Stoics: There was no beginning. Nature is cyclical with no starting point.

Paul: "God made the world." God "gives to all life, breath, and all things." All of nature, including us, is created by God.

2. What is our purpose?

Epicureans: Eat, drink and be merry, for all things started by an accident and all things could end at any given moment. Therefore, live it up!

Stoics: Conform to the endless cycles of nature.

Paul: The times and boundaries of our dwelling are purposed by God. Primarily, our purpose is "seek the Lord."

3. How do we determine our morals?

Epicureans: Humans should not have many restrictions. What does it matter? The universe could perish at any moment just like it began.

Stoics: We should not contradict nature. If something conflicts with the cycles of nature it is wrong.

Paul: "Seek the Lord." The Lord, who made us, is right about all things, including our morals. We must obey the Lord and repent of anything which violates the Lord's instruction.

4. What gives us certainty of knowledge?

Epicureans: There is no certainty of knowledge. The concept of "eternal truth" is non-existent. All knowledge is subject to change.

Stoics: "Truth" is based on nature and what conforms to its cycles. All knowledge is subject to change.

Paul: Eternal Truth exists. We will held accountable to it when Jesus Christ judges the world in righteousness. Our certainty of this knowledge is that God raised Jesus from the dead!

All the answers of the Epicureans and Stoics are untrue and leave people empty and condemned. All the answers of the Apostle Paul are true, giving people the opportunity to be fulfilled in life and eternally saved with God!

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