

## **Paul as Apologist**

When the Gospel first was communicated into Europe, apologetics played a significant role. In Acts, we see how the apostles reasoned with their contemporaries and tried to convince them about the truth of the gospel.

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### **Introduction: Three trends in the modern church**

- Therapeutic spirituality
- Mystic spirituality
- Emotional spirituality

### **A. Paul's attitude to the gospel**

- Examples from twelve cities in Acts
  1. Damascus, 9:22
  2. Jerusalem, 9:28-29
  3. Antioch, 13:26-33
  4. Thessalonica, 17:2-4
  5. Berea, 17:10-12
  6. Athens, 17:17-19

7. Corinth, 18:4
8. Ephesus, 18:19, 19:8-9
9. Miletus, 20:20-21
10. Jerusalem, 22:1-21
11. Caesarea, 26:24-27
12. Rome, 28:23-24

## **B. Paul's strategy**

- In the synagogue: Identity of Jesus
- In the market: Identity of God

## **C. The Lystra example**

- Identification with the people
- Affirmation of their true insights
- Challenge of falsehood
- Arguments for truth about God

## **Conclusion**

- There is a coherent picture of Paul in the book of Acts. The Christian faith he proclaimed:
  - is public truth
  - can be communicated & explained by words
  - is open for examination
  - can be confirmed in its claims to truth.
  
- Paul was articulating the content & arguing for the truth of the Gospel. We are called to follow his example. Vision of Forum: To train a new generation of apologists who can stand in today's marketplace of ideas in the way that Paul did in his generation.