



# “On Mars Hill - The Philosophers & The Babblers”

Pastor Greg Webster

“Acts: God’s Friends, His Power, & the Ends of the Earth,” pt 20



2Tim. 3:1 ¶ You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come.

2Tim. 3:2 For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,



2Tim. 3:3 unfeeling, implacable, slanderers,  
profligates, brutes, haters of good,

2Tim. 3:4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit,  
lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Tim. 3:5 holding to the outward form of godliness  
but denying its power. Avoid them!



# Thessalonica



Acts 17:1 ¶ After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

Acts 17:2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures,



# Thessolonica

Acts 17:3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you."



# Thessalonica

Acts 17:4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.



# Thessalonica

- Many Conversions



# Thessolonica

Acts 17:5 But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house.\*





# Thessalonica

- Many Conversions
- Extreme Persecution -  
Terrorized



# Thessalonica

Acts 17:10 ¶ That very night the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas off to Berea, and when they arrived they went to the Jewish synagogue.



# Thessolonica

- Many Conversions
- Extreme Persecution -  
Terrorized
- Sent Paul & Silas to Berea  
to save their lives



# Berea

Acts 17:11 These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so.

Acts 17:12 Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing.



# Berea

- Many Conversions
- No Internal Persecution
- Jewish believers lead the way in receiving Gospel
- Makes reaching the ends of the earth seem simple



# Athens

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

Acts 17:17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.



# Athens

Acts 17:18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities."  
(This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)



# Athens



Acts 17:19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

Acts 17:20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.”





# Athens

Acts 17:21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.



# Athens

Acts 17:22 ¶ Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way.



# Athens

Acts 17:34 But some of them  
joined him and became believers,  
including Dionysius the  
Areopagite and a woman named  
Damaris and others with them.



# Athens

- Few Conversions
- No Church Planted
- A Huge Victory for Christian Mission?





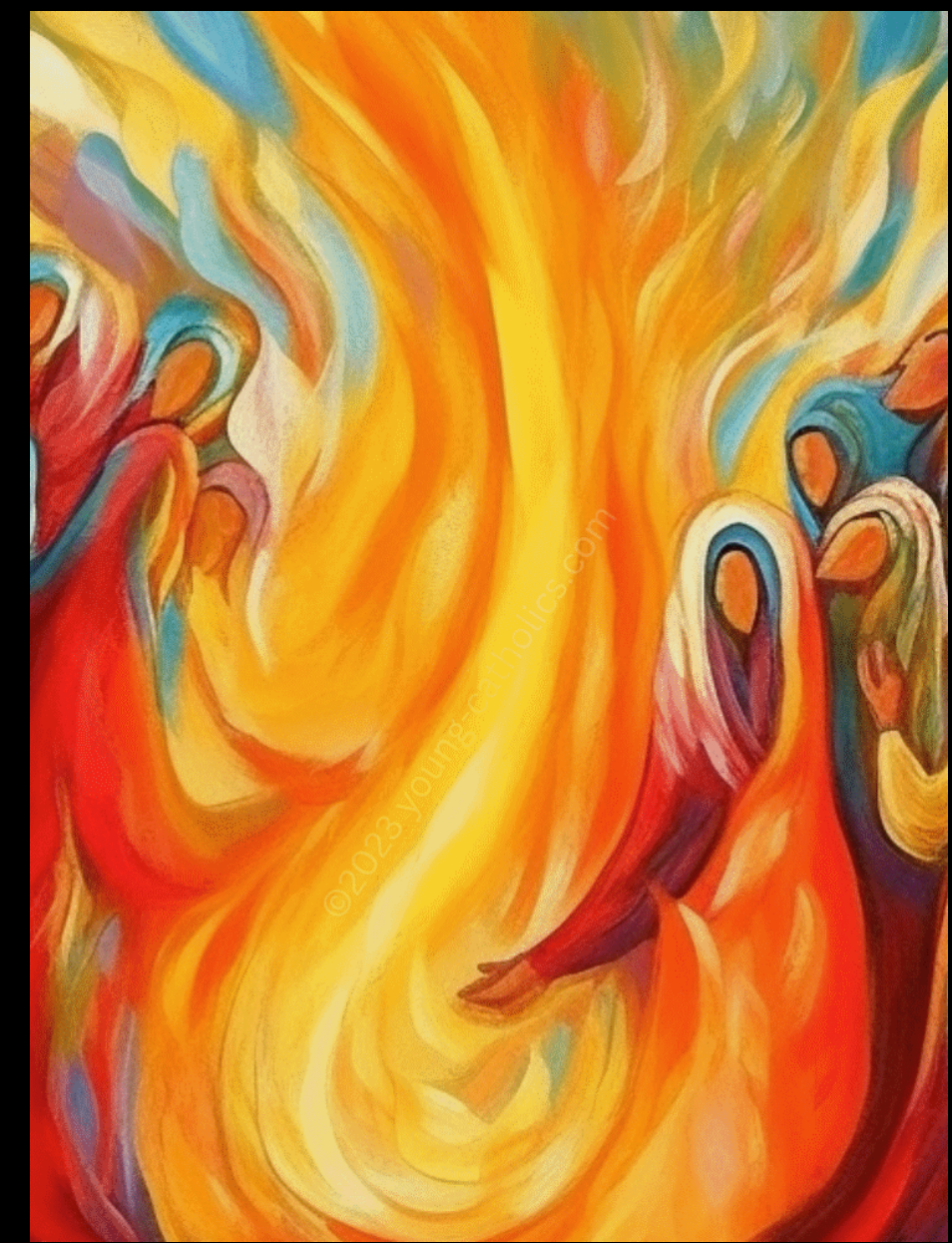
# Athens

- What works for Berea may or may not work for Athens.
- What used to work in Athens in a previous era is only relevant if it is still effective.
- What we proclaim ~ the Gospel ~ has a context. The context is the people
- When the church radically lives the gospel and communicates the message in ways appropriate with the times we will partake in this Mars Hill “victory.”



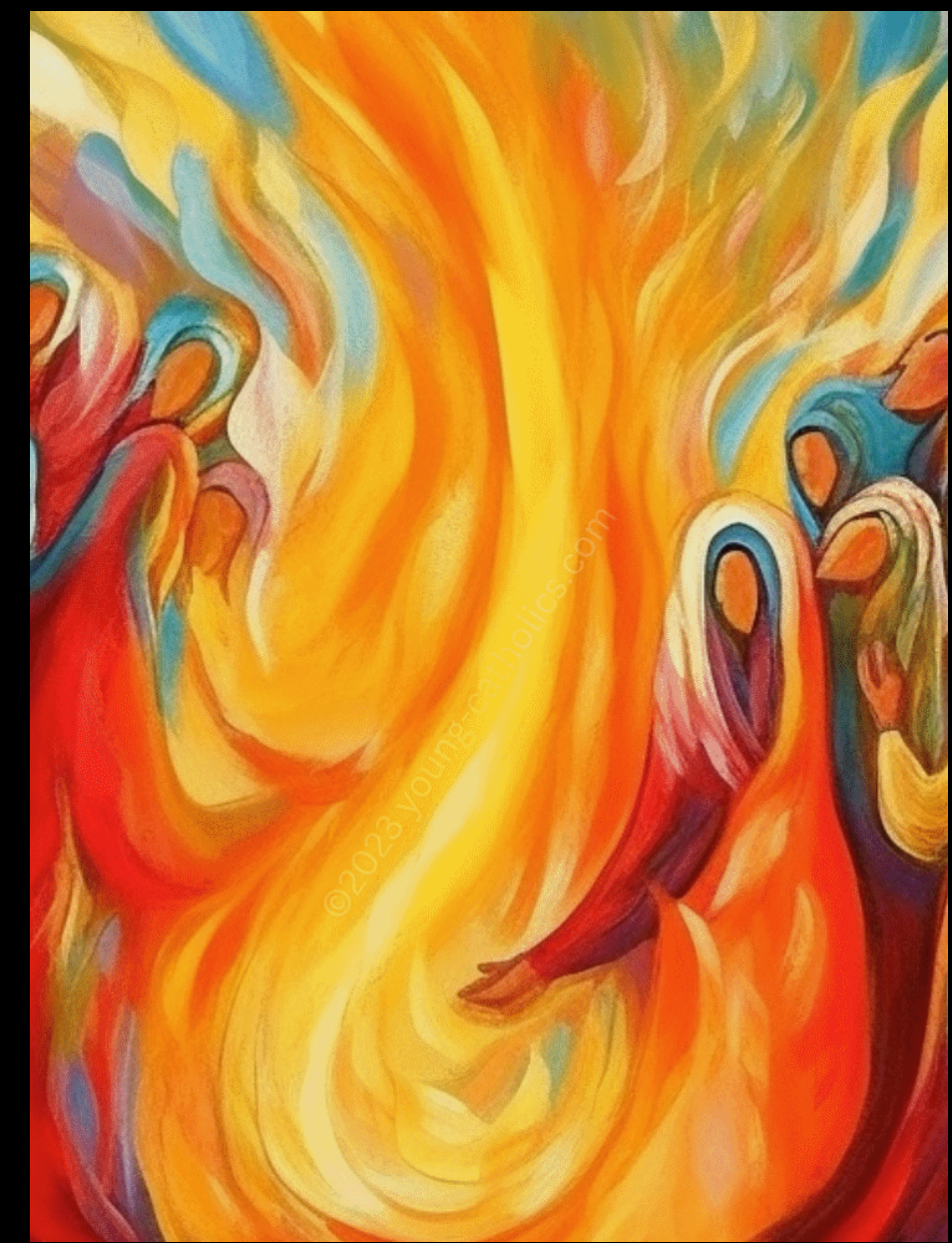
1Cor. 9:19 ¶ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more.

1Cor. 9:20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law.



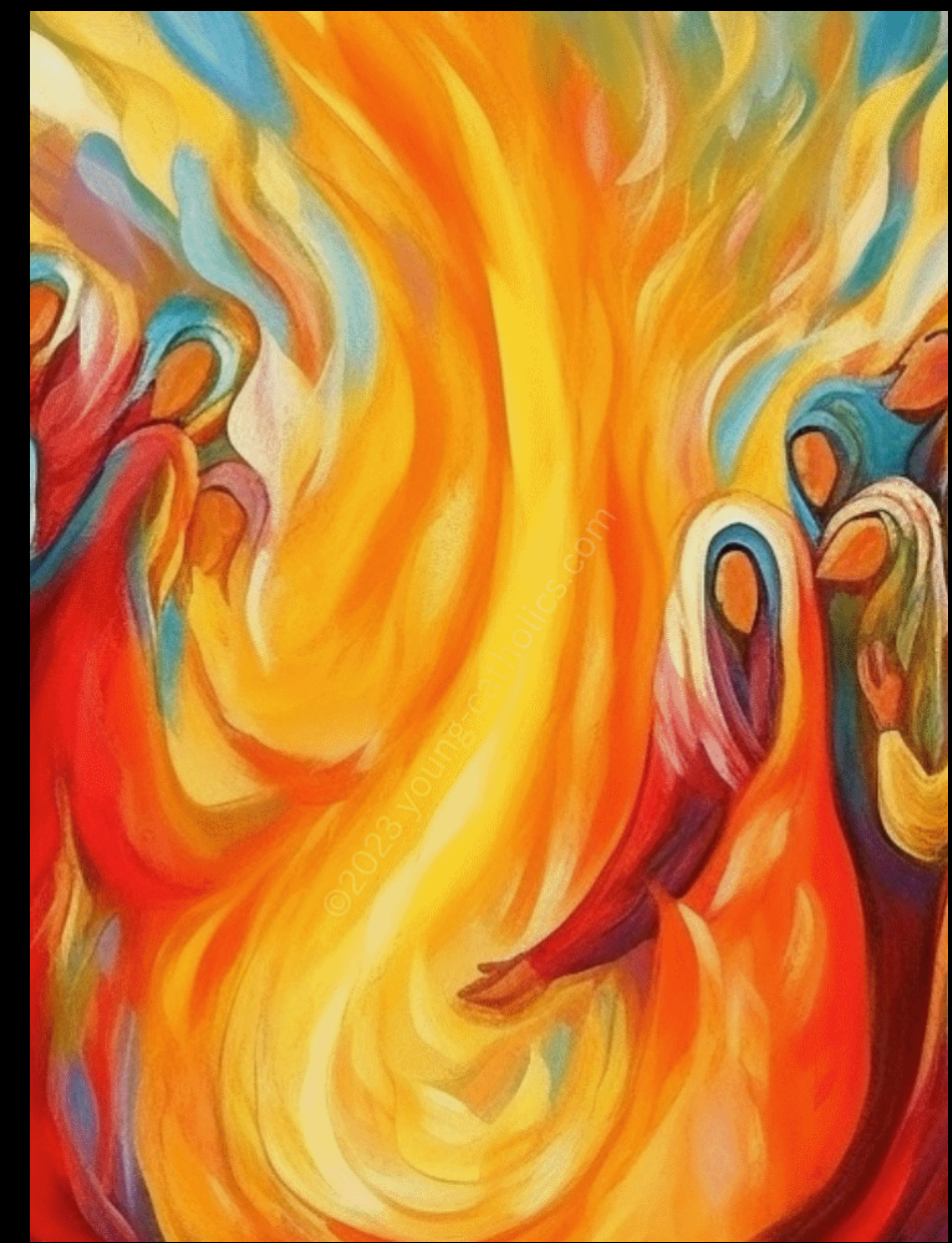
1Cor. 9:21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law.

1Cor. 9:22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.





1Cor. 9:23 I do it all for  
the sake of the  
gospel, so that I might  
become a partner in it.





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