

The Pain of Memory



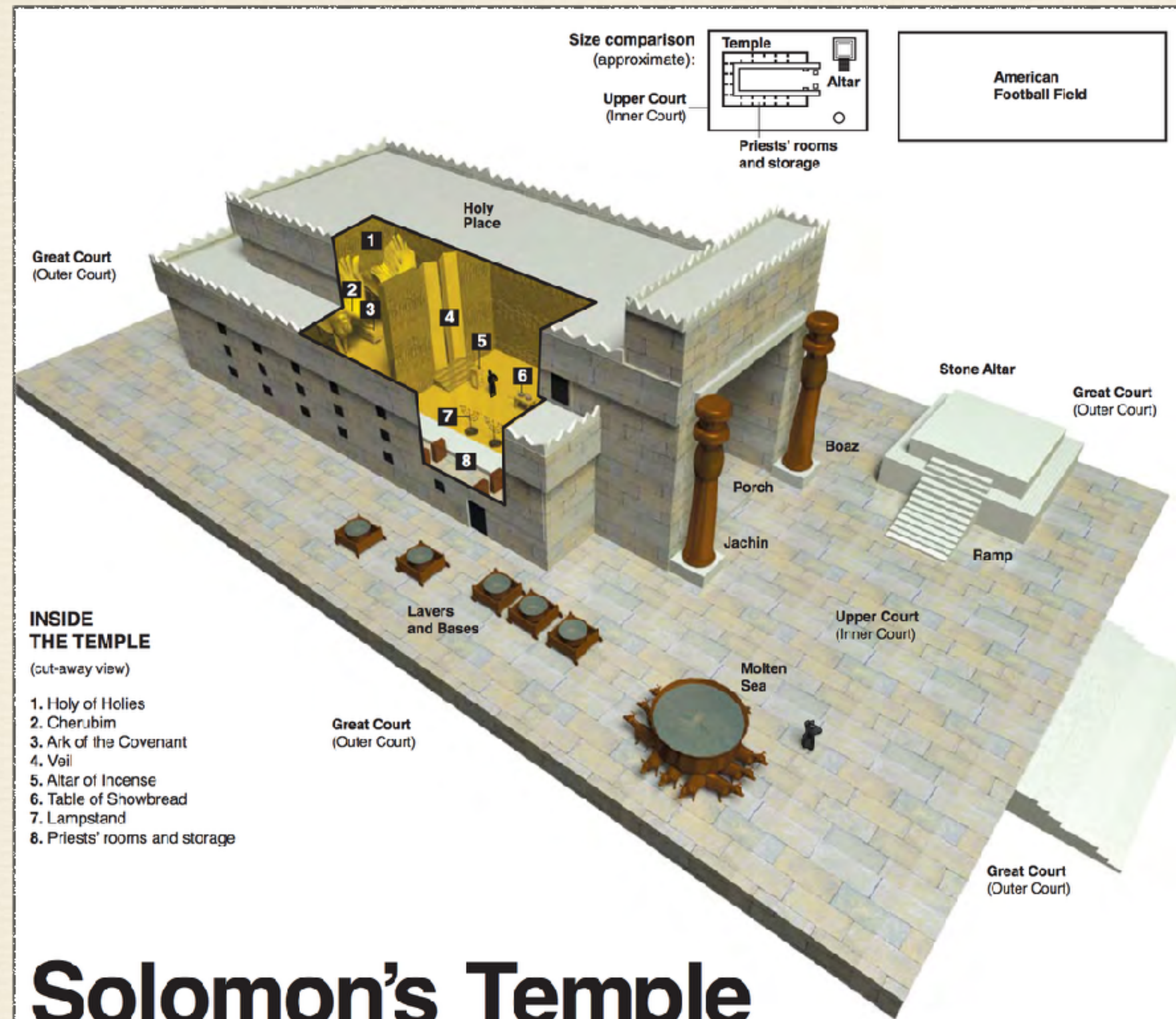
The Danger Behind Nostalgia

Nostalgia

- ❖ Greek - “the pain of returning home.”
- ❖ It comes from the epic hero adventure poems.
- ❖ The hero, upon returning home from his journey, no longer recognizes his home as it used to be.

Nostalgia

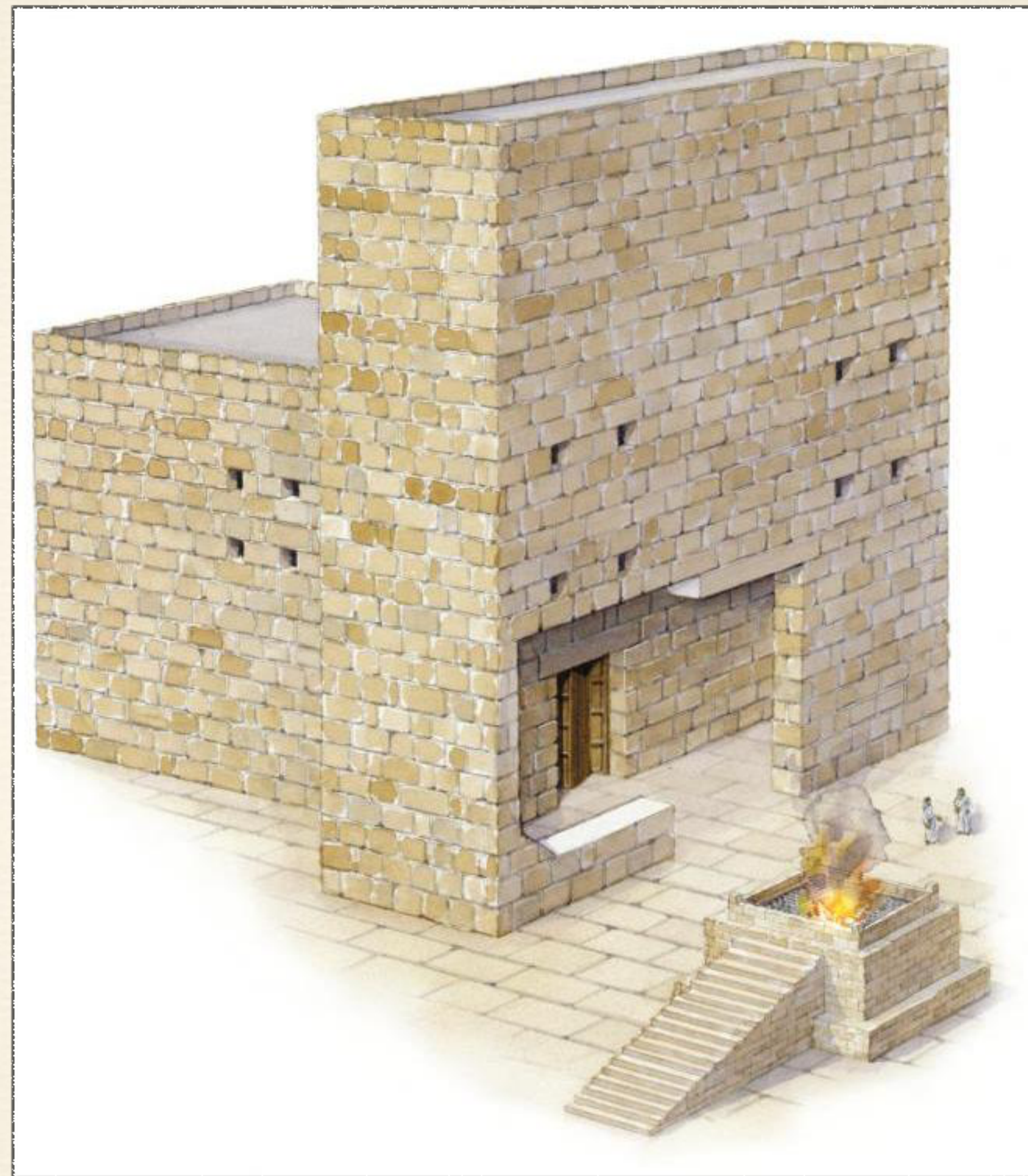
❖ It's not the hero's home that's changed — it's him.



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

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The Problem Then

- ❖ The young men had known only exile in Babylon and the stories of their elders. They had never seen Israel or Jerusalem, and had never brought an animal to the Temple for sacrifice. Their joy is entirely appropriate.
- ❖ The old men remember only Solomon's Temple — and how different it is from Ezra's.

The Problem Then

- ❖ Their longing for the days that had gone before crippled, and prevented them from seeing what was in front of them — they were home once more.

The Biblical Discussion

- ❖ Ecclesiastes 1:18 - For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.
- ❖ Ecclesiastes 7:10 - Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

The Problem Today

- ❖ Some people live their entire lives stuck trying to relive the “glory days” of their past (high school athletic career, etc).
- ❖ Companies who fail to adapt to changing times and business practices flounder and collapse.

The Problem Today

- ❖ Nations (and national leaders) stuck in nostalgia often end up wreaking havoc.
- ❖ On a personal level.
- ❖ Churches and Christians who cannot engage the modern world in modern ways will soon find themselves alone and dwindling.

The Problem Today

- ❖ The Gospel never changes, but the ways in which we engage with people have to (just look at how Paul engages with different crowds).
- ❖ We have to learn to embrace the present in order to present Christ in the present.