Additional Questions for Acts 17-18

1. Imagine you are a first-century urban dweller. How would you hear the following verse if you were a Stoic philosopher? “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” (1 John 4:9 NIV). How would an Epicurean respond to such a claim? [inspired by Longenecker, p. 258.]
2. Why was it significant that Paul was rushed to the Areopagus to share what he had been saying in the Agora?
3. Compare Paul’s sermon from Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:16-41) with the sermon on the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-31). List ways these are different and why? [Hint: Consider the different nature and background of those in the respective audiences.] [inspired by Campbell, p. 177.]
4. Do you think it’s remarkable that it seems like the leader of the synagogue, Crispus, converted to Christianity and that another ruler of the synagogue, Sosthenes, may have not only converted to Christianity but become a missionary partner with Paul?