

THE UNKNOWN GOD

Acts 17:22-31

"Athens ... the city full of idols"

- Acts 17:16, Paul reaction? "*His spirit was being **provoked**.*" "**Exasperated**" (Strong); "**Irritated**" (Thayer)
- Paul responded with "**reason**" (verse 17) which to this audience was a "new teaching" and were "strange things" (verses 19-20).
- We need skill in such reasoning. 1 Peter 3:15

"Athens ... the city full of idols"

- Paul recognized that (verses 22-23):
 - They were "*very religious.*"
 - They were "*ignorant*" and did not know the one true God.

The "*unknown God*" of today's world.

- What Paul taught the Athenians is what the world needs to know today about ...



The God Of Creation

- "*The God who made the world and all things in it ...*" (verse 24a)
- "*... seeing He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things*" (verse 25b)
- "*and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth ...*" (verse 26a).
- We must believe that "*He is*" (Hebrews 11:6) and fight the so-called theory of evolution.
- Romans 1:19-20; Isaiah 64:8; Psalms 119:73; 100:3-4; 95:1-7

The God Of Authority

- Acts 17:24-25, "*... since He is **Lord of heaven and earth**, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things.*"
- "**Lord**" – "he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding" (Thayer). "Supreme in authority" (Strong)

The God Of Authority

- The "**Lord of heaven and earth**" does not need us to sustain Him, but we need Him, to seek Him, and submit to Him.
- This is the application of the truth that God is the God of all creation. Psalms 119:73; 100:3-4
- God has the right to rule and has given that authority to His Son. Matthew 28:18
- The effect of this truth is seen in 1 Peter 3:15
- The application is seen in Matthew 7:21-23

The God Of Our Spirits

- "*Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man*" (Acts 17:29).
- Man (alone) is made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26)
- God is the Father of all spirits. Hebrews 12:9
- The conflict is between our flesh and spirit. (Romans 8:5-8; Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
- Our spirit will return to our Father who gave it to us. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

The God of Forgiveness

- Acts 17:30, "*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*"
- Man needs salvation. Romans 3:23; Psalms 130:3-4
- God allows man to change his heart and mind – to repent.
- Repentance is demanded (2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 13:3) which will bear observable fruit. (Matthew 3:8; 21:28-29)

The God of Judgment

- Acts 17:31, "*because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*"
- Accounts will be settled. Matthew 18:23-24
- Individually. 2 Corinthians 10:5
- We have an appointment. Hebrews 9:27
- It's our choice whether to receive "*the kindness (or) severity of God.*" Romans 11:22