

## Athens: Times Of Ignorance

Acts 17:16-31

## Athens: Ignorance

City of Athens:

Filled with idols. Acts 17:16 “It is easier to find a god in Athens than a man.” (Roman Satirist Bloomfield)

Acts 17:21 “(Now all the Athenians and the strangers sojourning there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.)”

## Athens: Ignorance

City of Athens:

- Filled with learning and philosophy.
  - Epicurean: Acts 17:18 This sect of philosophers was so named from Epicurus, who lived about 300 years before the Christian era. They denied that the world was created by God, and that the gods exercised any care or providence over human affairs, and also the immortality of the soul. End of living was pleasure. cf. 1 Corinthians 15:32

## Athens: Ignorance

Stoics: Everything guided by fate, even God. Virtue its own reward, vice its own punishment. Denied the immortality of the soul. That the passions and affections were to be suppressed and restrained; that happiness consisted in the insensibility of the soul to pain; and that a man should gain an absolute mastery over all the passions and affections of his nature. They were stern in their views of virtue, and, like the Pharisees, prided themselves on their own righteousness.



## Athens: Ignorance



Greece: Athens, Acropolis  
The famous Acropolis at Athens was built as a home for Athena, the patron goddess of the city.

## Athens: Ignorance



Greece: Athens, Acropolis, Nike Temple

The Temple of Nike located on the Acropolis at Athens. Nike was the goddess of victory. Athena Nike was an attribute both of Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and the chief god Zeus. She was looked to as a mediator of success between gods and men.

## Athens: Ignorance



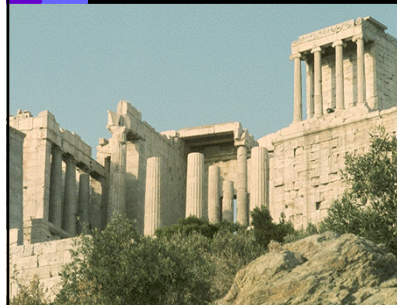
## Athens: Ignorance



Greece: Athens, Acropolis, Parthenon

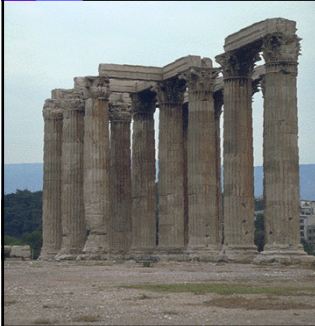
The Parthenon, located on the Acropolis at Athens, is the main temple of the Greek goddess Athena. The name "Parthenon" comes from the term Athena Parthenos (Athena the Virgin). Athena Parthenos was the patron goddess of the city.

## Athens: Ignorance



The Propylaea is the only entryway into the Acropolis at its western end, and the only opening in the surrounding wall. It was built mostly of pentelic marble. Mars Hill or the Areopagus (one of the places the Apostle Paul preached in Athens) was located at the western approach to the Acropolis.

## Athens: Ignorance



The Temple of Zeus at Athens. Zeus was the chief god of the pantheon. He was a sky and weather god who is identified with the Roman god Jupiter. Zeus sent lightning, thunder, rain and wind. The thunderbolt was his main weapon. He was the father, ruler and protector of gods and men.

## The Unknown God Acts 17:23

- Made the worlds. Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:9
- Not served by men's hands. Ps. 115:4ff
- Made of one every nation of men. Common origin. Gen. 1:26ff
- Determined their appointed seasons and the bounds of their habitation. Dan. 2:21
- That they should seek God. Rom. 1:18-23
- In Him we live and move and have our being.

## The Times Of Ignorance

- Ignorance was man's.
- God did not ignore sin, but took initiative to redeem. Rom. 5:8
- God dealt with sin in previous ages.
  - Hosea 4:6
- What does it mean, God “overlooked” sin?
  - God did not punish man with the full measure of his wrath. cf. Acts 14:16-17
  - God showed forbearance while executing His scheme of Redemption. Rom. 3:21-26; cf. Gal. 4:4-5

## God Commands Repentance

**Acts 17:30-31**

## God Commands Repentance

**Acts 17:30-31** “All men everywhere...”  
**Rom 3:23** “for all have sinned...”  
**Rom 4:15** “...where there is no law, neither is there transgression.”

**Therefore, all are under law!**

## REPENTANCE COMMANDED

- *By John. Mt. 3:2*
- *By Jesus. Mt. 4:17; Lk. 13:3,5*
- *Great Commission. Lk. 24:47*
- *By Disciples. Mk. 6:12*
- *By Apostles. Acts 2:38; 11:18*

## REPENTANCE

- *metanoia* – “a change of mind for the better, heartily to AMEND with abhorrence of one's past sins.” (Thayer, 405)
- “This change of mind involves BOTH a turning from sin and a turning to God.” (W.E. Vine, Vol. 3, pg. 281)
- “John did not call on people to be sorry, but to change their mental attitudes AND CONDUCT.” (A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures, Vol. 1, pg. 24)

## Examples of Repentance

- *Jews on Pentecost. Acts 2*
- *Ninevites. Mt. 12:41; cf. Jonah 3:10*
- *Rebellious son. Mt. 21:28-29*
- *Prodigal son. Luke 15:11-21*

**These all brought forth fruit worthy of repentance!  
 cf. Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:19-20**

## Examples of Repentance

- *Thessalonians turned from idols.*  
*1 Thess. 1:9*
- *Ephesians burned their books.* *Acts 19:19*
- *Jailor "washed their stripes."* *Acts 16:33*
- *Corinthians turned from former practices.*  
*1 Cor. 6:9-11*

These all brought forth fruit worthy of repentance!  
cf. Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:19-20

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **DESIRE TO REPENT** – *Luke 3:10*
  - Effect of gospel on the heart – *Acts 2: 37-38*
  - Godly sorrow for one's sin – *2 Cor. 7:10;*  
*cf. Mt. 26:69-27:5*
  - cf. Simon - *Acts 8:20-24*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **Positive** – Something to be done.  
*Luke 3:10-11*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **Negative**- Some things "must" be stopped – *Luke 3:10-14*
  - Repudiation of sin
    - *Ephesian idolaters* – *Acts 19:18-19*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **SOME THINGS "MUST" BE DONE** – *Luke 3:11-14*
  - Restitution of wrong (as able)
    - *Zacchaeus* – *Luke 19:8-9 (Lev. 6:1-7)*
    - *"In vain may anyone tell me that he repents... stealing my horse while he continues to ride him without my consent..." (Brents, page 191)*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **SOME THINGS "MUST" BE DONE** – *Luke 3:11-14*
  - Reformation of conduct
    - *Repent (sorrow) causes change* –  
*Mt. 21:28-32; Luke 15:18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11*
    - *Rebuked for not learning this* – *Mt. 21:31-32*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **COSTLY** – *Luke 14:25-33*
  - Giving up sin – *Ephesians 4:17-24*
  - The cost can be very great – *Acts 19:19*

## Demands of Repentance

*Luke 3:8-14*

- **EMOTIONAL** – *Ezra 10:44*
  - Does not change the nature or the demands of repentance
    - Liar – *Eph. 4:25*
    - Thief – *Eph. 4:28*
    - Adulterer – *1 Cor. 6:9-11*

## Does Not Remove Temporal Consequences

- Convicted murderer does not escape death penalty. **Acts 25:11**
- Convicted thief does not escape “due reward.” **Luke 23:40-43**
- Convicted prodigal does not regain wasted money. **Luke 15:13**
- Convicted adulterer not free to “marry another” or continue adultery. **Mt. 19:9**

## What Produces Repentance?

- **Bible preaching.** *cf. Jonah 3:1-2*
  - “Preach the preaching that I bid thee.” *cf. Luke 11:32*
- **The goodness of God.** *Rom. 2:4*
- **The Judgment to come.** *Acts 17:30-31*
- **Godly sorrow.** *2 Cor. 7:10*

## Fruits of Repentance-

*"For behold..." 2 Corinthians 7:11*

- **Can see the effects of repentance!**
  - **Earnest care** – Haste (with care) to correct sin
  - **Clearing** – Diligent change answered critics
  - **Indignation** – Displeasure over previous sin
  - **Fear** – Dread of not pleasing God
  - **Longing** – Earnest desire to do & be right

## Fruits of Repentance-

*"For behold..." 2 Corinthians 7:11*

- **Can see the effects of repentance!**
  - **Zeal** – Fervent spirit, not apathetic neglect
  - **Avenging** – Sin no longer tolerated
  - **Approved yourselves to be pure** – Pure in the matter

## Efforts to Avoid Repentance

- Deny the existence of sin.
- Deny personal guilt. *1 Sam. 15:13,15*
- Transfer responsibility for sin. *Ezek. 18:20*
- Cover up sin. *1 Sam. 11*
- Harm those who expose sin. *Mt. 14; Mk. 6; cf. Gal. 4:16*

## God's Solution To Sin

- **Repent & escape the wrath to come!** (*Luke 3:7-8*)