

Knowing The “Unknown God”

ACTS 17:22-31

1

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The altar “To The Unknown God” was the product of the religious beliefs of the Athenians
 - Idolatry – verse 16
 - Judaism – verse 17
 - Philosophy – verse 18
 - Epicureans – taught sovereignty and gratification of the senses – humanism
 - Stoics – Acknowledged gods but all human affairs were governed by fate
 - Novelty lovers – verses 19-20
 - Desired to hear new things – verse 21

2

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ These traits gave Paul an open door to declare to the Athenians “The Unknown God”
- ▶ He proclaimed the fundamental facts of the God they did not know

3

“The Unknown God”

Is a PERSON

- Not an impersonal abstract force, but a person – verses 28-29
 - Hebrews 1:1-3
- Unlike gods of the pagans made with their God-given hands
 - Psalms 115:1-11
- Unlike the gods imagined by the Athenian philosophers – a god based on fate or an abstract force

4

“The Unknown God”

Is a PERSON

- He has attributes of a PERSON ...
 - He has a mind – I Corinthians 2:16
 - He thinks – Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalms 40:17
 - He loves and hates – John 3:16; Proverbs 6:16-19
 - He speaks – Hebrews 1:1-2; Isaiah 55:10-11
 - He sees and hears – Hebrews 4:13; I Peter 3:12
 - He cares – I Peter 5:6-7
 - He is jealous – Exodus 20:4-6

5

“The Unknown God”

Is a POWERFUL God

- His POWER is ...
 - Eternal – Romans 1:18-20
 - Infinite – Acts 17:24-27
 - Unlimited by space – I Kings 8:27; Acts 7:47-50
 - Cannot escape His presence – Psalms 139:7-10
 - Jonah tried but failed – Jonah 1:3-4
 - But we can escape His fellowship – II John 9-11
 - Unlimited by time – Psalms 90:2; II Peter 3:8

6

“The Unknown God”

Is a POWERFUL God

- His POWER is ...
 - Creative – Acts 17:24-26; cf. Genesis 1, 2; Psalms 33:6-9
 - Sovereign – Acts 17:24
 - Giving Him the right to be worshiped as He pleases – Acts 17:24-25; Romans 1:21-25; John 4:24
 - Giving Him the right to command all men everywhere – Acts 17:30; Romans 1:25
 - Giving Him the right to judge the world according to His standard – Acts 17:31

7

“The Unknown God”

Is a POWERFUL God

- His POWER is ...
 - Self-sustaining – Acts 17:25
 - He does not need our worship – we need to worship according to His will
 - Matthew 7:21-23
 - John 4:24
 - He does not need our service – we must humbly serve Him – Hebrews 12:28-29
 - He does not need our riches – we must seek the riches of His grace made possible by His Son – II Corinthians 8:9

8

“The Unknown God”

Is a POWERFUL God

- His POWER is ...
 - Providential – Acts 17:25
 - By which we live physically in this world
 - Acts 17:25-28; cf. Matthew 6:24-33
 - By which we can overcome the temptations and trials of this life – I Corinthians 10:12-13
 - Saving – Acts 17:30-31; Romans 1:16; I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - Saved by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ – Romans 4:22-25
 - Saved by obeying Him – Hebrews 5:8-10; Acts 2:38

9

Know What To Do

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
 - Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

10

Know What To Do

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:10 – “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

11

Know What To Do

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:14 – “... leading you to fall away from the living God”

12