

November 19, 2023
Acts 17:22-34
“The Unknown God Made Known”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Paul’s sermon was designed for his Athenian audience, intellectual and pagan oriented. Paul spoke of the Creator God, how He has revealed Himself in creation. God sent His Son to die for our sins, the proof is in the resurrection of Jesus, the Man in **v 31**. The message continues, all must repent. God requires an account to Jesus whom He raised from the dead. This judgement will be righteous judgement. One Creator, one human race, One Savior-Jesus. Greatest question of life, what did you do with Jesus?

Paul speaks to them respectfully as being very religious, he wanted his hearers attention and then say what really matters. Cannot get there by alienating people from the outset. Keep in mind, Paul was fuming underneath over all of the idolatry going on. You worship an unknown god in your ignorance so let me tell you all about Him!

Paul’s message was totally biblical with a ring of Greek philosophy as he attempted to build a bridge to reach the Athenian intellectuals. See **I Corinthians 9:22**.

Within their wheelhouse Paul quotes a Cretan and Cilician poet. One of these lived about seven centuries prior to this discussion and the other about three. These poets were respected to some extent by the Athenians; they corroborated his message, ingenious! At the end of the day Paul’s message was the simple gospel.

Paul struck a cord with natural/general revelation, man is without excuse. Now Paul’s message is its no longer in ignorance that y’all do this sort of thing; now you have supernatural revelation in the risen Christ Jesus. REPENT **Acts 3:19-21**.

Can you draw a picture of God right now? Can not be done, yet to the tune of thousands of gods/idols they were giving it their best shot. Always seeking something new, always left empty. “For there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity-the man Christ Jesus.” **I Timothy 2:5 (NLT)**

Application:

Paul wanted to introduce them to the One and Only True God that they obviously did not know. Paul’s strategy was to meet them on common ground, something we will do well to mimic for a productive evangelistic ministry. Meet them where they are but always end up at the foot of the cross. The simple gospel. **Ephesians 2:1-9**.