

To the Unknown God?

Acts 17:22-31

Intro:

- Our World Today...
 - Total Financial panic and worry
 - Threats of War for oil and resources
 - Continued war for supremacy – Islam
 - Religious stirrings from every corner of the world
- Not so different from the days of Paul!
 - Acts 17 – part of the 2nd missionary journey
 - And a place called Athens...

I. The Place of Challenge (16-21)

- The challenge of cultural diversity (16-18)
 - Athens - a city full of idols – Greek Pantheon
 - Petronius – easier to find a god than a man in Athens!
 - God-fearing Gentiles – Jewish converts to Law
 - Epicureans- practical atheism, get all you can NOW!
 - Stoics- self-mastery and hardness, suicide was ok!
- Note vs 21 –
 - Hearing something new...
 - People always want something they can chew on
 - But reject the very things they need

II. The Call of Challenge (22-26)

- Paul looked throughout the city
 - Yes you are religious –IS THAT ENOUGH??
 - *deisidaimonesteros* – fearful of demons, superstitious
 - Fear is not the answer to our hearts needs!
 - Objects of worship – unknown god? Foxhole religion..
- God who made the world
 - This must be our call to this generation!
 - Does not dwell in places, but hearts
 - Is not served with hands and offerings – He has it all!

III. Time of Challenge (27-31)

- Appointed times and boundaries (26)
 - To SEEK God – *zeteo*, desire, search, enquire into
 - To grope – *pselaphaoto*, feel for (Lk 24:39; 1Jn 1:1)
 - God is NOT FAR – all we need do is turn around!
 - In Him – not stoic pantheism, real immanence in God
 - Life (*zao*); Move (*kineo*); Being (*esmeo*) “we are”
 - Not a nature of seen and understood things... gold!
- GOD is declaring (*parragello*), to command!
 - Repent! *metanoeo* – to change one’s mind
 - A day of judgment is coming! The appointed Man...

Our Choices:

- Our World has enough religion!
- They do not need more rituals and ceremonies
- They are IGNORANT of God and His Christ!
- The need to SEEK, GROPE for the CLOSE GOD!
- How will they do so?
- We MUST LIVE HIM!
- We MUST PROCLAIM HIM!!
- WE MUST CALL HIS CALL – REPENT!
- Vs.31-34 – some will sneer, others will believe!