

Three Cities, One Gospel

Part 4: Athens

Acts 17: 22-34

Keywords and Phrases*

Areopagus (v. 22)

Ignorance (v. 30)

Judge (v. 31)

Offspring (vv. 28-29)

Religious (v. 22)

Resurrection (v. 32)

Righteousness (v. 31)

Unknown God (v. 23)

*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why did Paul open his sermon by stating, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious" (Acts 17:22)?
2. What is the significance of Paul's statement, "he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth" (See Acts 17:26; Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11)?
3. What does Paul mean when he states that we are all God's offspring (see Genesis 1:27; Genesis 9:6)?
4. What implication(s) does the resurrection of Jesus have in the final judgment and eternal life (John 5:22-27; Acts 4:10; Romans 6:9; 8:11; 8:34; 1 Cor 15:12-20)?
5. How does the audience's reaction in this scenario compare with other responses to preaching documented in the book of Acts (compare Acts 2:42; Acts 4:1-4; 5:33-42; 7:54-60; 13:44-52; 14:4-7; 17:4-5; 17:12-13)?

Analyzing the Scripture

Paul

- stood amid Areopagus (v. 22).
- proclaimed to the crowd the "unknown god" (v. 23).
- quoted a Greek poet (v. 30).

God

- made the world and everything in it (v. 24).
 - o does not live in man-made temples (v. 24).
 - o is not served by human hands (v. 24).
- gives to all mankind life and breath (v. 25).
- made from one man, all nations (v. 26).
- has determined allotted periods and boundaries (v. 26).
- is not far from each one of us (v. 27).
- overlooked ignorance for a season (v. 30).
- commands all people to repent (v. 30).
- has a day fixed when He will judge the world (v. 31).
- raised Jesus from the dead and appointed Him as judge (v. 31).

The Audience

- some mocked (v. 32).
- some were intrigued and wanted to know more (v. 33).
- some believed (v. 34).

Reflection Question

How does Paul's sermon challenge your views about God, the resurrection of the dead, and judgment?

" The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."

(Acts 17:24 ESV)