

## IN ATHENS: GETTING TO KNOW THE UNKNOWN GOD

(Acts 17:16-34)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

- A. The Founding of the Church in Thessalonica (17:1-9)
- B. The Founding of the Church in Berea (17:10-15)
- C. Paul Preaches in Athens in the Synagogue, the Marketplace and the Areopagus (17:16-34)

1. As Paul waited for his comrades, his Jewish upbringing and Christian convictions made all of the idolatry in Athens \_\_\_\_\_ to him; his spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ within him. (v. 16)
  
2. The apostle's motivation \_\_\_\_\_ itself in \_\_\_\_\_ both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue and the busy marketplace. (v. 17)
  
3. The Epicurean philosophers taught the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ without pain, the Stoics taught the quest for \_\_\_\_\_; after hearing Paul speak, they concluded that he was a "\_\_\_\_\_", he was like a bird picking seeds. (v. 18)
  
4. Having overheard Paul's discussions in the marketplace, these philosophers invited him to address the Council of Philosophers (also known as the Areopagus) who were the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ seat of government of Athens. (vv. 19-21)
  
5. In his speech before these "highbrow" intellectuals he stated the obvious about them being \_\_\_\_\_ worshipping \_\_\_\_\_; they had even erected an altar labeled: "To the \_\_\_\_\_ God" to cover the bases. (vv. 22-23)

6. The apostle did not use the Scriptures (as he would in a Jewish synagogue), but instead he began his speech with the God of creation...
- a. The Creator does \_\_\_\_\_ dwell in fancy Greek temples made with human hands they \_\_\_\_\_ Him. (v. 24)
  - b. Such a God has no *need* of men to supply him with anything; on the contrary it is He who is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of life. (v. 25)
  - c. The Greeks, and especially the Athenians, prided themselves on being racially \_\_\_\_\_ to all other people, but Paul preached that all of them descended from \_\_\_\_\_, and that God was \_\_\_\_\_ over the political and military affairs of nations. (v. 26)
  - d. One of God's main purposes in revealing Himself in creation and history is that people would \_\_\_\_\_ Him (cf. Rom. 1:18-20), and this \_\_\_\_\_ should not be difficult since "*He is \_\_\_\_\_ far from each one of us.*" (vv. 27-28)
  - e. The Athenians had to understand that although God had overlooked people's former \_\_\_\_\_ (not in the sense that He condoned it but rather that He had not judged it yet); God now commanded everyone everywhere to \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ about Him. (vv. 29-30, cf. Acts 14:15-16; Rom. 3:24-26)
  - f. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the guarantee that "*He will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness*" on an appointed day. (v. 31, cf. 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5)
7. The reaction to Paul's message was that some of the philosophers \_\_\_\_\_ him, others wanted to hear him again on the matter; while some even \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ . (vv. 32-34)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage?