

Athens (Part II): Preaching to a Heathen People

Acts 17:22–34

<p>1 <i>Paul preached in the meeting of the Areopagus</i></p> <p>2 <i>God was sought by man</i></p> <p>3 <i>God was not hidden, not unknown</i></p> <p>4 <i>God is the Creator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Lord of heaven and earthb. The God who is present everywherec. The Creator, not the createdd. The self-sufficiente. The giver of life and breath and everything else <p>5 <i>God guides the history of all men and nations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. All men come from one sourceb. All men are determined a <i>time</i> to live and are given “a place” <p>6 <i>God has a great purpose for creating man: To seek and know Him</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. God can be found: Is not far offb. Man is the offspring of God: Is responsible to seek God	<p>22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.</p> <p>23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.</p> <p>24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.</p> <p>25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.</p> <p>26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.</p> <p>27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.</p> <p>28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’</p>
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<p>7 <i>God now demands repentance</i></p> <p>a. Because of man’s sin — his idolatry</p> <p>b. Because the days of ignorance are over</p>	<p>29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone — an image made by man’s design and skill.</p> <p>30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.</p>
<p>8 <i>God has set a day to judge the world</i></p> <p>a. The judgment: Righteousness</p> <p>b. The judge: Jesus Christ</p> <p>c. The surety of judgment: Jesus’ resurrection</p>	<p>31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”</p>
<p>9 <i>The results of the message</i></p> <p>a. Some sneered</p> <p>b. Some put off</p> <p>c. The preacher turned from them</p> <p>d. Some believed</p>	<p>32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”</p> <p>33 At that, Paul left the Council.</p> <p>34 A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.</p>