



Areopagus today, where Paul preached

Acts 17:22-34

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.



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Questions to Consider:

1. Paul began his speech (v.22-23) by sharing his observations that they were a religious people. Why? How can we make connection points between our culture and the Gospel?
2. In this speech, Paul doesn't quote the Old Testament at all. Instead, Paul quotes the Cretan Poet Epimenides in the first half of v.28 and the Stoic philosopher Aratus in the second half of v.28. Why? How can we observe and learn to "speak the language" of the cultures we are part of in order to more effectively communicate the Gospel?
3. Paul focuses on at least 6 attributes or characteristics of God between v. 24-31. Which ones does he focus on? How can we paint a bigger picture of God for people?

Pray:

Pick someone where you live, work, or play and pray for them. Ask God to give you missionary eyes to see them, a missionary heart for them, and a missionary voice to share with them. Feel free to write the prayer here.

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