



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of January 25, 2026

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.***

1. Athens was a center of learning and education, representing the pinnacle of mankind’s intellect and achievements. And yet, it was also the home to over 30,000 idols, including one to an “unknown god”. Does it surprise you that the “intellectual elite” would also be extremely religious? Why or why not?
2. Although very religious, do you think the Athenians were really searching for the one true God? If not, what were they searching for?
3. In 21st century America, the extent of our idolatry is no different than it was in 1st century Athens. However, today, rather than worshiping idols outside of ourselves, 21st century man worships himself; me, myself, and I. Why can we never be satisfied with this kind of worship? Why do we do it?
4. Pagan worship is always transactional; the worshiper must give, or do something to satisfy their deity in order to get some kind of blessing in return. How is Christian worship different? Does God need anything from us? Why then do Christians sometimes resort to transactional worship?
5. Paul reminds the Athenians that all humanity started as one, and that it is God and not man who determines the timeframes and boundaries of the nations. How should the rise and fall of great civilizations throughout history, break down human pride and cause us to seek a Creator?
6. When Paul addresses the Athenians, he doesn’t mention God’s love, grace, substitutionary atonement. Instead he calls the people to repent. Why is it critical to understand first and foremost that we are all sinners who need to repent? Does forgiveness, grace, atonement make sense to “good” people?
7. When the Athenians heard Paul speak of the resurrection, some mocked him. Was their mockery understandable? If sin, repentance, and the resurrection can be off-putting to the unbeliever, how can we tactfully downplay or even avoid these topics in our evangelistic efforts? Obviously this is a “trick” question! How does Romans 1:16 address this question?