

# THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 17:16-34

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 203

### TITLE:

## "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD"

BEING READY TO SHARE TO LORD

### THEME:

*Acts 1:8*

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Last Week Paul was escorted away from both Thessalonica & Berea by reason of persecution from the Religious community

He Arrives in The City of Athens, Athens was The Cal Tech the M.I.T of the Day. It's Citizens Prided themselves as being The Intellectuals of the World

**Home Town of Aristotle & Socrates**

## Athens was on the Decline

A U.S. Senator has commented that the average historical life-span of a nation is 200 years and that every nation has a life cycle;

From Bondage to Spiritual Faith, From Spiritual Faith to Courage, From Courage to Liberty, From Liberty to Abundance

From Abundance to Selfishness, From Selfishness to Complacency

From Complacency to Apathy, From Apathy to Bondage

A.) Athens Witness to Paul

vv. 16-21

Paul had Taken a Walk around Town

- \* **provoked** GRK **paroxuno** (par-ox-oo'-no)  
to sharpen, to exasperate or to ANGER. to agitate.

### **Obsessed with Idol Worship**

- \* **Encountered** GRK **sumballo** (soom-bal'-lo)  
To Experience. A Great word for these guys

### The Epicurean Philosophy;

The Epicureans were atheists and didn't believe in Absolutes,  
materialist, Pleasure seekers, no judgment in life,

### **THE CHIEF PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO EXPERIENCE PLEASURE**

The Saying "Eat, Drink, and be Merry" came from the Epicureans

America is Epicurean  
we live for the weekend, we work to buy fun, denying the supernatural

The Greeks Invented and Mastered a thing called  
**"A"-MUSE-ment**

The Escaping of Reality

Forerunners of DISNEYLAND & Nintendo

**"Virtual Reality"**

The Ultimate Escape, Fulfilling Imagination by an Altered Reality

The Greek Religions,

The Deification of the Human Attribute, the Worship of the Environment

## The Stoic Philosophy;

- The Stoics were pantheist, believing that all is god and god is all
- they were moral and had good morality

\* **Babbler**    **GRK a seed-picker**  
one who gathers bits here and there

DayTime T.V. was Conceived Here in Athens

## B.) Paul's Witness to Athens                      vv. 22-23

The Defense *of the Gospel by Paul to the Athenians*

It was Said of Ancient Athens

*"That it was easier to find god than it was to find a man"*

Between the Stos & Epi's,  
their response would have been...

"well Paul, I have a god, and my god makes me feel very free. relaxed, almost like I'm somebody else - my god's name is **"drugs"**

well Paul, I have a god, and my god makes me feel superior to others. strong and powerful, able to gain control of everybody I know - my god's name is **"Knowledge"**

well Paul, I have a god, and my god makes me feel deep pleasure. It takes me around the world in pursuit of everything that feels good to me. I can't get enough of it, it's so overwhelming! my god's name is **"Physical Desire"**

well Paul, I have a god, and my god is better than all other gods because my god tells me that I am a god too. It tells me that everything is one and that we are all connected to the gods and I experience everything that's good, all the time, even now, I am good, I am god - my god is named **"me"**

## The Convenient gods

The gods that men create just so happen to condone and encourage everything that man desires to do for himself - what a convenient god you have! - convenient and comfortable to have around

### Verse 23

## Notice Paul's (Gentle) Approach

They Covered all *the bases - even the UNKNOWN GOD wouldn't have been offended by their sincerity*

### THE ALTAR OF THE UNKNOWN GOD

## Maximum Sincerity

### *Sincerity Is No Indicator Of The Truth!*

#### Elijah at Mt. Carmel

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

### SO THE CHALLENGE WAS MADE

1 Kings 18:26

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. And **they leaped about** the altar which they had made (EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU GUYS SINCERELY LEAPING?)

:27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god isn't he; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." :28 So they shouted louder (EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU GUYS SINCERELY SHOUTING?)

and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. (EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU GUY'S SINCERELY BLEEDING?)

# You Can Be Sincerely Wrong About Something

## PAUL'S POINT; *YOU CAN KNOW THIS UNKNOWN GOD*

A Good Epicurean and Stoic *philosopher will eventually ask themselves these three important, fundamental questions;*

### #1 WHERE DID I COME FROM?

Science tries so hard to answer that

### #2 WHO AM I HERE?

Philosophy attempts to answer this one

### #3 WHERE AM I GOING?

Religion does its best to fill in this blank

**BUT ONLY JESUS CHRIST  
CAN ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS**

**1st He is Known as The Creator of All vv. 24-25**

Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning** God created (designed) the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

John 1:1

**In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 1:10

"You, Lord, **in the beginning** laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

**To Reject the Facts is Dangerous**

## Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, :19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. :20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, :21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. :22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

## Psalm 14:1

**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."**

Being Creator, He doesn't need a house to live in or anything else

## He Needs Nothing

Temples are for men, not God

**Because He's Creator, He is Independent**

**The Life giver is greater than the life it gives**

## 2.) He is Known as The King Over All

vv. 26-29

- man's origin is of God's design
- from one person, the nations became
- Nation's, their dominion, their rise and fall and timing

## Why Did God do all this

“So that they should seek the Lord”

- Creation testifies of God's existence
- Man's pursuit of religion testifies of God
- The Nation's existence testifies of God

Because He is King of All,  
God is Available - He is not distant

\* **grobe GRK 5584 pselaphao (psay-laf-ah'-o)**

to search for: to find by feeling, to touch, to handle

Only here in the N.T. it is the nature of those who do not know God. To be led by feelings and emotions

*Because He is Creator, King*

**He Gives Life**

if life is a continuum - then whoever is the source of that life is the responsible factor in man's quest for meaning and purpose

**Acts 17:28**

**"The Poet, Eratis"**

**"for in Him we LIVE and MOVE and have OUR BEING, as also some of your own poets have said, `For we are also His offspring.'**

\* **Being GRK esmen (es-men')**

to be a person possessing personality, the human response

Jesus died to free you from your sins - not your personality

The Bible/Jesus Teaches

Matthew 6:9

Jesus said "In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven,

**The Doctrine of Omnipresence**

He fills the universe, He is enthroned in heaven, He lives inside me,

**He is Personal and Transcendent**

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not

Psalm 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Colossians 2:9

**For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;**

**we LIVE and MOVE and have OUR BEING**

**You Have been 'loaned' a Life**

John 1:9

**That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.**

The Poet Epimadatis

**"For we are also His offspring"**

We Are In His Image (Moral Likeness- Feelings, Thoughts, Emotions And Volition,  
Having The Power Of Choice)

The Divine Nature vs. Idols:

Isaiah 44 & Jeremiah 10

The Carpenter cuts down a tree from the woods, puts part of the wood in a fire, builds a table out of the rest and then carves a statue with the remains and calls it his god

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in heaven; he does whatever He pleases. :4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. :5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; :6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell :7 They have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. :8 Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.



## Paul's Challenge to Them

\* **Repent** GRK **metanoeo** (met-an-o-eh'-o)

to re-think again, to think differently than before, to reconsider and change direction

**To Change Direction,  
Start All Over Fresh & Stay Fresh**

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, :5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. :6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" :7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. :8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

## Jesus and The Holy Spirit

John 16:8

"And when He has come, He will #1 convict the world of sin, and #2 of righteousness, and #3 of judgment:

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. :25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. :26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, :27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. :28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice :29 "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Revelation 20:11

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. :12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. :13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. :14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. :15 If any one's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## The God News

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, :14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

## The Reaction of the World

The Reaction of all of You This Morning?

Some Mocked ~ Some Delayed ~ Some Believed

Their gods had blinded them;

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: :4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine

## ONE MORE ABSOLUTE

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked**; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. :8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

This Di 'on'isus - is Senator Di 'on'isus  
Church history says he Became the First Pastor in Athens,  
They met at the Parthenon for services.

Application:

*You Can Know The Unknown God  
Today*

Jesus said to know Him is to;

- Never Thirst Again
- To Have peace that passes all understanding
- To never be lonely again
- To have heavens assurance of life everlasting