

Acts 17:22-31

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD**. So, you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

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 human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

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 human design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all peoples everywhere to repent. ³¹For 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 everyone by raising him from the dead."

1. Proclaiming a simple gospel.
2. Destroying idols.

1. Proclaim a simple Gospel—Paul's One Minute Gospel

- **MADE- Vs. 24** *"The God who **made** the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth".*
- **GAVE- Vs. 25** *And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself **gives everyone life and breath** and everything else.*
- **FIND- Vs. 27** *God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and **find Him**.*
- **REPENT-Vs. 28** *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all peoples everywhere to **repent**.*
- **RAISED- Vs. 31** *He has given proof of this to everyone by **raising Him from the dead**."*

2. Destroying Idols: Vs. 16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was **greatly distressed** to see that the city was full of idols.

- **Idol:** idolatry, in Judaism and Christianity, **the worship of someone or something other than God as though it were God.**
- **Romans 1:23** (NLT) gives this insight: *"And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols."*
 - **Vs. 23b** *So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.*

"Thus it is that we always pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap."

— Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Practical Takeaways:

1. **Know and proclaim a simple gospel. Share that gospel one time this week.**
 2. **Have a zero-tolerance policy for idols.**
1. **Deut 7:5** But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.
1. "We don't broker with idols, we obliterate them."

Small Group Questions:

1. Do you have the ability to confidently share the gospel with someone?
2. What are the idols of our culture today?
3. What could be some of the results of living in an idol culture?
4. Has this message made you reconsider things in your life that might become idols?
5. Do you think you could share the gospel more effectively and more often? If so, how would that possibly change your life?