

Date: April 28, 2019

Text: Acts 17:14-34

Title: Making Known the Unknown

Big Idea: The gospel is for all people who will turn from their idols to God.

Read Acts 17:14-21

What do you think it means that Paul's spirit was provoked? Are you provoked by "idols" in our culture or that you see around you? Discuss how to balance the tension between confronting cultural idols and loving others.

Verse 21 is kind of an indictment on Athenian culture. Does it ring true for our culture? How do you personally fall into this?

Read Acts 17:22-34

Paul does a good job of giving us an example of how to introduce the gospel to a culture that is unfamiliar with it. What are some "connecting points" for introducing biblical truth and the gospel with non-believers you interact with on a regular basis? How would you explain the following 8 truths to others in a way that they would understand?

What is implied by the Athenians making of an altar "To the unknown God"? [1: they are ignorant of God; 2: they are afraid of divine wrath]

(1) Making Known the Unknown: 8 Truths About God

- *God is the Creator:* "The God who made the world and everything in it..." (v. 24a).
- *God is the Lord:* "...being Lord of heaven and earth..." (v. 24b).
- *God is Transcendent:* "...does not live in temples made by man..." (v. 24c).
- *God is Self-Sufficient:* "...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything..." (v. 25a).
- *God is the Gracious Provider:* "...since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (v. 25b).
- *God is Omnipresent:* "And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth..." (26a).
- *God is Sovereign:* "...having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place..." (26b).
- *God is Immanent:* "...that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 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.'" (verses 27-28).

(2) Call to Repentance: 3 Truths About Judgment

Read Romans 1:18-23. How does this passage align with Paul's speech in Acts 17?

- *God is Merciful and Patient*: “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent...” (v. 30).
- *There Will be a Day of Judgment*: “...because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness...” (v. 31a).
- *Jesus is the center of Everything*: “...by a man whom he has appointed. And of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead” (v. 31b).

Application Questions:

1. Will you turn to Jesus—the light of the world—and find truth, forgiveness, and life?
2. Does our concern and love for people extend to not wanting them to face that judgment without the mercy and grace of Jesus?
3. Will you share with others the truth of the gospel, knowing that even the hardest people to reach can come to repentance and faith in Jesus because God is able to save anyone he wants to? But he won't do it without us!