











While Paul was waiting for (Silas and Timothy) in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.

Acts 17:16-17 (NLT)

It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.

Acts 17:21 (NLT)

He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said,



"What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods."

Acts 17:18 (NLT)

The Areopagus



So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines.



And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.

Acts 17:23 (NLT)

He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples,

Acts 17:24 (NLT)

and human hands can't serve his need – for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.

Acts 17:25 (NLT)

From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

Acts 17:26 (NLT)

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him – though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:27 (NLT)

For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Acts 17:28 (NLT)

And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

Acts 17:29 (NLT)

God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.

Acts 17:30 (NLT)

For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (NLT)

When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later."

Acts 17:32 (NLT)

That ended Paul's discussion with them, ³⁴ but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Acts 17:33-34 (NLT)



1. All of us are missionaries, but we won't do much "missionarying" until our hearts are stirred.

Taking this sermon home....

 Contextualize! Respectfully start where they are at – ask questions, find common ground, and build a bridge, not a wall.



