

THE BOOK OF

LIBERTI

# ACTS

CHAPTERS

14-17

THE CHURCH MULTIPLIES



# ACTS 17:16-34

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."

# ACTS 17:16-34

<sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

# ACTS 17:16-34

<sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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,<sup>28</sup> 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.'" <sup>29</sup> 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.

# ACTS 17:16-34

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> 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." <sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

# ISAIAH 44:9, 15-17

<sup>9</sup> "All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witness neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. "

<sup>15</sup> "He takes part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it." <sup>16</sup> Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" <sup>17</sup> And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "deliver me, for you are my God!"

# PSALM 115:8



<sup>8</sup> "Those who make idols become like them, and so do all who trust in them"

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# WHAT DID PAUL SEE?

## ACTS 17:16

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

“It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give”

TIM KELLER

# WHAT DID PAUL FEEL?

## ACTS 17:16

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

# EZEKIAL 14:3

“these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces.”



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# EXODUS 20:5

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"You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God..."

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# ISAIAH 42:8

"I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. "



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“The highest incentive of all is zeal or jealousy for the glory  
of Jesus Christ.”

JOHN STOTT

# WHAT DID PAUL DO?

## ACTS 17:17-18

<sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling man wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.



# WHAT DID PAUL SPEAK?

## ACTS 17:22-23

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.'

“But let man unto man like brethan act, my doctrine this  
suits to a T, the heart that can feel for the woes of another,  
Oh, that’s the religion for me.”

**BANJO PATERSON**

# WHAT DID PAUL SPEAK?

## ACTS 17:23-31

<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

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# WHAT DID PAUL SPEAK?

## ACTS 17:23-31

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> 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."

“For idolatry is the attempt either to localize God, confining him within limits which we impose, where he is the Creator of the universe; or to domesticate God, making him dependent on us, taming and taping him, where he is the Sustainer of human life; or to alienate God, blaming him for his distance and his silence, whereas he is the Ruler of nations, and not far from any of us; or to dethrone God, demoting him to some image of our own contrivance or craft, where he is our Father from whom we derive our being.” In brief, all idolatry tries to minimize the gulf between the Creator and his creatures, in order to bring him under our control.”

JOHN STOTT