

Acts: O Church, Arise!
August 9th, 2026 --- Acts 17:16-34
When Tradition Replaces Truth
Sermon by Rick Tozer

BIG IDEA: God's truth is meant to override our traditions.

1. Paul Addresses Pride: (17:16-21)

Question: Why does the Apostle "dismantle" pride?

God Speaks: "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord;" Proverbs 16:5a

Principle: Pride is fertile ground for Satan's destructive seeds, whereas humility opens us to God's grace. (James 4:6)

2. Paul Addresses the Nature of God. (Acts 17:22-29)

Question: How is it that our view of God shapes who we are?

God Speaks: "He chose us in Him ... that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love," Ephesians 1:4

Principle: An accurate view of God is not just theological—it's practical. It transforms our thinking, guides our actions, deepens our relationship with Him, and protects our faith from error.

3. Paul addresses the Need for Jesus. (Acts 17:30-34)

Question: What did the Apostle hope to accomplish by his "sermon?"

God Speaks: "He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:31b

Principle: Without Jesus we will be found naked on the day of judgement, whereas with faith in Jesus we will be clothed in His righteousness.

Ponderings - Acts 17:16-34

"These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, ... (Proverbs 16:16-17a)

1. What is the big deal about human pride? Why is pride so distasteful to God?
2. What are some indications that pride might be creeping into our attitudes and behaviors?
 - a. In our relationship with others? ("**Honor one another above yourselves.**" Romans 12:10 NIV)
 - b. In our "religious" service? ("**We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.**" Luke 17:10)
 - c. In our view of ourselves? ("**My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.**" Psalm 131:1)
3. Why does the Apostle give the attributes of God to the Athenians? (**Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.** Ephesians 5:1)
 - a. How should knowing what God is like change us?
 - b. If we become like our "god," and we are not more loving, compassionate, and forgiving, then who or what is actually our "god?"

Next Week: Acts 18:1-23