

Paul and the Philosophers
Acts 17:16-34

Jesus' resurrection tells us the truth about life.

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. (Acts 17:16)

Our worldview is the way we see and understand the world.

Jesus' resurrection tells us the truth about life.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious." (Acts 17:22)

"For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:23)

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, (Acts 17:24)

"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 17:25)

"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, (Acts 17:26)

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, (Acts 17:27)

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.'" (Acts 17:28)

"Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, and image formed by the art and imagination of man." (Acts 17:29)

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, (Acts 17:30)

"because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man who he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)

Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. (Acts 17:18)

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” (Acts 17:32)

Jesus’ resurrection tells us the truth about life.

Jesus’ resurrection tells the truth about the autonomy of the self.

[God] has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man who he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

Jesus’ resurrection tells the truth about history.

...according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:19-20)

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. (Ephesians 1:21)

Jesus’ resurrection tells the truth about our purpose and promise.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)

Jesus’ resurrection tells the truth about real hope.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

Jesus’ resurrection tells us the truth about life.