

I. The Provoking of Paul’s Spirit (16-17)

- A. The place of the provocation (16a) - “Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens...”
- B. The reason for the provocation (16b) - “...his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.”
- C. The result of the provocation (17) - “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.”  
Jews & Gentiles, orthodox and unorthodox, religious settings & secular settings

II. The Problem with Paul’s Audience (18-21)

- A. Saturated with human philosophy (18a) - “Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him...”
- B. Skeptical concerning the Gospel (18b) - ““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.”
- C. Seduced by religious novelty (19-21) - “And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.”

III. The Proclamation in Paul’s Address (22-31)

- A. Paul’s audience was ignorant (22-23) - “So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 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.”
- B. Paul’s address was ignited (24-31) - He made known to them the God they didn’t know as:

Include these in the slides.  
 EXAMPLE:  
 Creator - “The God who...

1. **Creator** (24) - “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth...”
2. **Sovereign** (25-26) - “...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 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.”
3. **Available** (27) - “...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...”
4. **Uncontainable** (28-29) - “...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.”
5. **Patient** (30a) - “The times of ignorance God overlooked...”
6. **Holy** (30b) - “...but now he commands all people everywhere to repent...”
8. **Judge** (31a) - “...because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness...”
9. **Jesus Christ** (31b) - “...by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

IV. The Proving of Paul’s Audience (32-34)

- A. Some rejected the truth (32a) - “Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked...”
- B. Some respected the truth (32b) - “...But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” Presumption
- C. Some received the truth (33-34) - “But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.”