

ACTS 17 PART II

Knowing God is to Know Wisdom

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness
Roman 1:18.*

Digging Deeper

As we continued in Paul's second missionary journey here in Acts 17, we now find him alone in Athens, a metropolis of worldly culture, art, and man-made wisdom. It was the center point of philosophy and 'humanism' celebrating all forms of pleasure and strivings for pleasure. As Paul is 'provoked in his spirit' it begs the question if this is an example for us to follow. Is it right to be angered by idol worship? Proverbs 8:13 tells us

*The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way;
And the perverse mouth I hate.*

This passage clearly shows us that God has a righteous standard and anything not in line with His standard is hated by Him. Further In the 10 Commandments, we also see that He is a jealous God that will not share His glory with anyone. So what can we learn from this? There is a righteous anger that should provoke us to make the truth known to mankind in a world so darkly deceived. As the world strives to diminish the glory of God, are we trying to make His light shine brighter?

What if the church is deceived? How can we know what is right in a world of confusion? As we come to know Him more we are able to identify the things of this world that are not of God. These deceptions in the world come from the forces of darkness in the spiritual places and influence mankind through all forms of subversive attack. The only way to defend against them is to truly seek and know the Truth.

James 3:13–18. How does this demonstrate the wisdom of man vs the wisdom of God?

Discussion Questions

1. How is our current culture like the city of Athens? What are some examples of the deceptions found in Athens that we still see in today's culture? Where does the wisdom of man truly come from?
2. Though we may not have as many 'shrines' or 'statues', what does idol worship look like today?
3. Paul was provoked in his spirit when he saw the number of idols in Athens. When is it ok to be angry as a Christian? How does righteous anger help us separate ourselves from the world?
4. In what ways have we limited our own understanding of God? How does this stifle our ability to authentically worship Him in spirit and truth?
5. How can we truly seek to know God more and not just worship our own idea of God?