

# The Acts of the Apostles

## The Growth and Expansion of the Church to the Ends of the Earth

### Acts 13:1-28:31 (26)

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22) (11)

#### Challenges in Evangelizing the Lost

7. The Outreach in Athens (17:16-34)
  - a. Christ against the Philosophies of Men (17:16-21)
    - 1) Paul's Problem (17:16)
    - 2) Paul's Response (17:17)
    - 3) The City's Reaction (17:18-21)
      - a) Confusion (17:18)
      - b) Request (17:19)
      - c) Anticipation (17:20-21)
  - b. Christ through the Philosophies of Men (17:22-31)
    - Design mandates a designer, the universe evidences design, therefore the universe must possess a grand designer, in the same way that a watch must mandate a watchmaker.
    - 1) Paul Connected with Them (17:22-23b)
      - religious too superstitious, extremely pious
      - examining careful observation, connected with the concept of a serious consideration
      - unknown (*agnostos*) existing, but unknowable
    - 2) Paul Stated His Intention (17:23c)
    - 3) Paul Exposed Their Sin (17:24-29)
      - a) The Self-Existent Creator (17:24-25)
        - (1) God, the Creator (17:24)
        - (2) God, the Self-Existent (Aseity) one (17:25)
          - aseity "the quality or state of being self-derived or self-originated, specifically: the absolute self-sufficiency, independence, and autonomy of God."
      - b) The Lord of Mankind (17:26-28)
        - (1) Ordered Man's Existence (17:26)
        - (2) Drew Man's Attention (17:27-28)
          - (a) Man's Seeking of God is Intended (17:27a)
          - (b) Man's Seeking of God is Ineffectual (17:27b)
            - grope to feel, touch, handle
          - (c) Man's Seeking of God is Possible (17:27c-28)

c) The Responsibility of Man (17:29)

*The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology* (Millard Erickson)

The Ontological Argument:

“God is the greatest of all conceivable beings. Such a being must exist because if he did not, one could still conceive of a greater being—namely, an identical being that also has the attribute of existence.”

The Cosmological Argument:

“Since every existent thing in the universe must have a cause, there must be a God.”

The Teleological Argument:

“The order of the universe must be the work of a supreme Designer.”

The Moral Argument:

“God is needed as an explanation for moral values and the moral impulse.”