



ACTS

The Church Empowered
for Mission



CALL TO WORSHIP

1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

— Psalms 42:1-2a, 11

ACTS 17:16-34

16 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. 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. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "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. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

ACTS 17:16-34

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. 22 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. 24 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 17:16-34

25 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, 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, 28 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.” 29 Being then God's offspring, 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.

ACTS 17:16-34

30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.



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THE FOLLY OF HUMANISTIC PHILOSOPHIES VS. 16-21

Gk=paroxysm=deep disgust/
contempt/hatred

Center of Culture in Ancient World

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within population of 10k people, 30k+ idols (Rmns. 1:25) Met intellectuals where they were

him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with

the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who

Two schools of philosophy present

happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also

Seed Picker = insult meaning randomly picking up ideas here & there conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others

He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities—because he was preaching

Stoics held body/physical world as worthless

Mars Hill

Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus,

Obsessed with “new/latest” knowledge

saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”



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EPICUREANS

STOICS

- Believed gods had no interest in/influence on men.

- Viewed the world through a fatalistic lens.

- Hedonists= truth found in achieving ultimate pleasure/avoidance of pain

- Believed that everything in world happened according to fixed causes. No such thing as human freedom except at a very limited point.

- Philosophy in materialism.

- Believed body and soul were composed of fine matter that dissolved into the abyss after death (no fear of divine judgement)

- Pantheists

- Though fatalistic thought man can control his attitude about what happens (nothing gets you down)

Mindset = “if it feels good, it is good.”

Mindset = “what will be, will be.”



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THE REASON FOR GOD VS. 22-31

Surrounded by
pagan idolatry

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive

Brilliantly winsome; Doesn't ridicule/chastise

that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the

Contextualizing to surrounding for sake of gospel proclamation
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. 24 The God

Reason #1: Appeals to Creation
who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not

God isn't dependent; He is self-sufficient
live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he

needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Regarding Creation, Paul was saying...

To Stoics = God is actually distinct from his creation.

To Epicureans = God isn't hands-off/disinterested in creation, He's involved.



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THE REASON FOR GOD VS. 22-31

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,

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,

Regarding Sovereignty, Paul was saying...

- People & kingdoms come & go according to His purposes.
- History isn't random or w/o direction
- Our purpose isn't fulfillment in self, but rather found in God



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THE REASON FOR GOD VS. 22-31

Paul leverages pagan Gk. poetry (that they were familiar with) to preach.

This is unashamedly contextualizing the gospel in evangelism-unashamedly (1 Cor.1:18)

28 for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets

Contending if we're God's offspring/created in his image...irrational to reduce him to idol

have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought

not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by

Mercy extended

the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now

Reason #3: Appeals to Humanity's Accountability before God

he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which

he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of

this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Regarding Human Accountability, Paul was saying...

- Repentance isn't an invitation; its a command
- Rebellion will be met w/judgement; the resurrection is proof/confirmation of it.



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MIXED RESPONSES VS. 32-34

Gospel ALWAYS demands a response

Response 1: Rejection

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others

Response 2: Tarry/Delayed Unwilling to Commit said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst.

Response 3: Repentance & Belief

34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the

Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them. **What worldview are you bowing your knee to?**

“FATHER, MAKE OF ME A CRISIS MAN. BRING THOSE I CONTACT TO A DECISION. LET ME NOT BE A MILEPOST ON A SINGLE ROAD; MAKE ME A FORK, THAT MEN MUST TURN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON FACING CHRIST IN ME.” –JIM ELLIOT

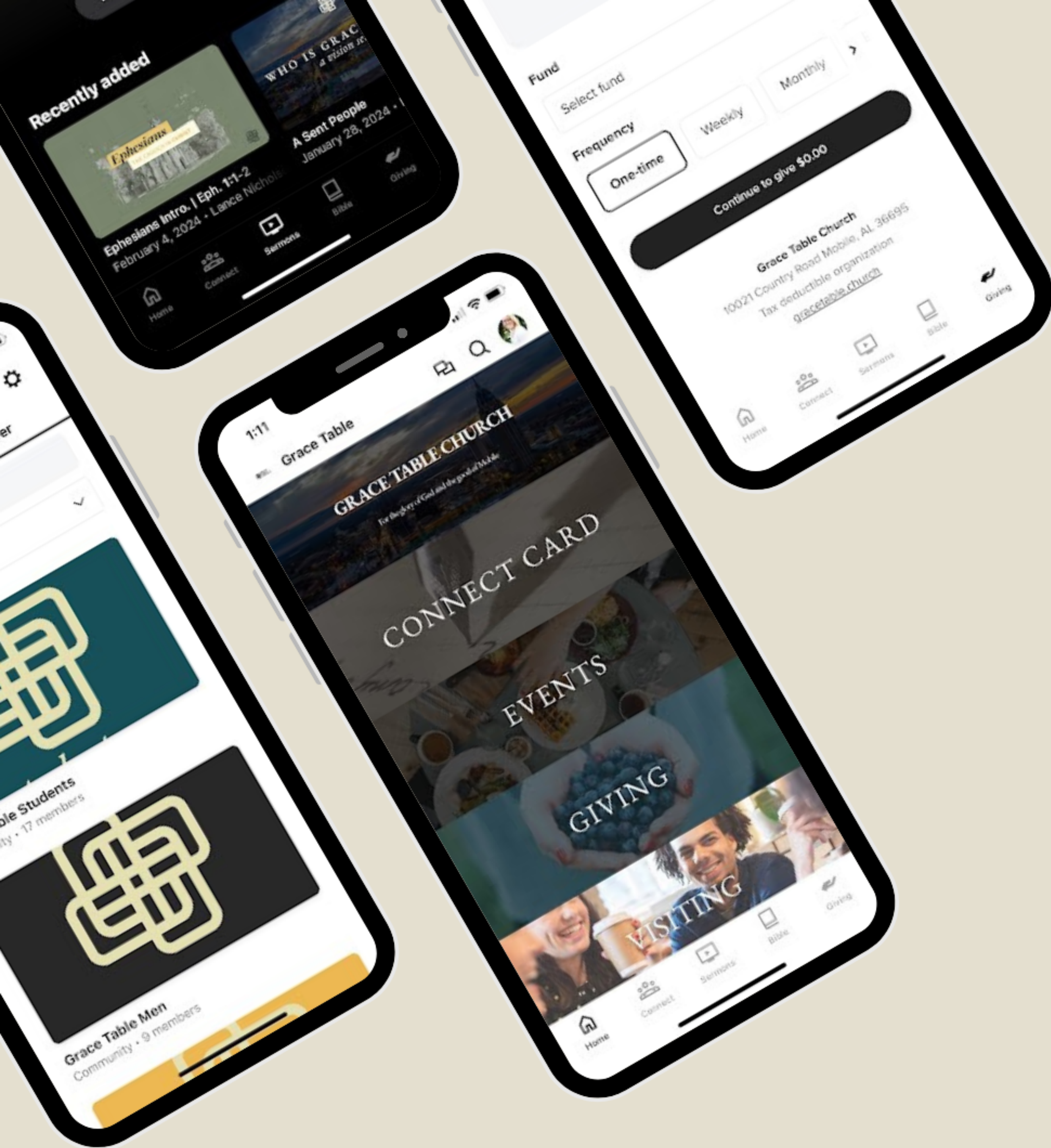




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SUMMER 2026 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

GALATIANS

For Freedom You Set Me Free

NEXT GATHERING: THURSDAY, JULY 9TH | 6-8 PM





MEN'S SUMMER

WORK DAY(S)

AT NEW FACILITY

NEXT ONE, JULY 11TH / 8 AM



JUL 12
POST-CHURCH

THE PERFECT BEER FOR MOBILE
Where it all began!

COVENANT *partnership* INTEREST LUNCHEON

NEXT SUNDAY | REGISTER ONLINE OR IN APP



CHURCH POTLUCK

TODAY. HEAD TO BACK BUILDING. LET'S GO EAT.

BENEDICTION

Leader:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.



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