

ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 34

Review: *We examined the incredible advances of the Greek culture that Paul was confronting at Athens. Such cultures are prone to "miss God by their wisdom".*

I. When Cultures Miss God By Their Wisdom - Acts 17:16-34 - 1 Cor. 1:18-25

- A) By their wisdom they have PROSPERED without God
- B) By their wisdom they have FALSELY defined God
- C) By their wisdom they have REASONED away God

These may be true of pre-Christian and post-Christian cultures. Atheism is the result of either coercion (communism) or reprobation (Rom. 1).

II. Paul Works A Witness Into Their Wisdom Without The Word - Acts 14:13-17

- A) The witness of man's deepest HOPE - Acts 17:18-20

- 1) Greek gods offered no hope of an afterlife
- 2) Every culture expresses some post-life existence
- 3) Resurrection was an idea too fantastic

- B) The witness of man's spiritual YEARNING - Acts 17:22-23

- 1) Do men seek after God? - Romans 3:9-12 / Eccl. 3:11
- 2) They can't seek what they don't UNDERSTAND - Isa. 55:6-11

- C) The witness of God's CREATION - Acts 17:24-25

- 1) It is a witness that is EVIDENT - Rom. 1:18-20
- 2) It is a witness that is CONSISTENT - Psalm 19:1-6
- 3) It is a witness that is ACTIVE - Acts 14:15-17

- D) The witness of our HUMANITY - Acts 17:26a

- 1) We are distinguished by our intellect
- 2) We are distinguished by our self-awareness
- 3) We are distinguished by our volitional nature

- E) The witness of the world's HISTORY - Acts 17:26b

- F) The witness of the mystery of LIFE - Acts 17:27-29

- G) The witness of certain ACCOUNTABILITY - Acts 17:30-34