

# ACTS 17:16

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.

Athens was the intellectual capital of the world, home to Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Yet for all their philosophy and wisdom, they were desperately lost.

# ACTS 17:17-18

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. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him.

We see Epicureanism in our pursuit of comfort and entertainment, Stoicism in our self-help culture's emphasis on emotional control and personal resilience.

### ACTS 17:18-21

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. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Paul was about to show them that what they needed wasn't new—it was eternal.

# ACTS 17:22-23

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 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.

Paul was revealing the identity of the God they'd been groping for in the darkness.



# ACTS 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

You're not doing God a favor by worshiping Him. He's doing you a favor by revealing Himself to you.

# ACTS 17:26-27

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, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

From one single source God made every ethnicity, every culture, every people group.

# ACTS 17:28-31

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.' 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. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ isn't just a religious doctrine. It's God's validation of Jesus' claims.



# ACTS 17:32-34

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

The church was born in Athens not through a mass movement but through individual responses to the proclaimed word. God's kingdom advances one transformed life at a time.

# Romance?

# Pleasure?

Money?

Power?

Popularity?

Comfort?



# ONLY THE GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOUR SOUL TRULY CRAVES:

- 1. Forgiveness for your guilt
- 2. Purpose for your life
- 3. Hope for your future
- 4. The promise of eternal life

Augustine was right—our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

God demands total allegiance because He gave total sacrifice.

God requires complete surrender because He offers complete salvation.