

***What New
Doctrine Is
This?***

Acts 17:15-34

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Source: <https://www.atotheword.com/bible-studies/the-book-of-acts/pauls-second-missionary-journey/>

Acts 17:15-34

15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 17:15-34 - continued

18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

Acts 17:15-34 - continued

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Acts 17:15-34 - continued

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Acts 17:15-34 - continued

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

33 So Paul departed from among them.

34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Introduction

A. Paul at Athens (v 15)

B. Paul Finds A City Given To Idolatry (v 16)

1. “Easier to find a god than a man”

**2. “Practically every false deity worshipped on earth
could be found in Athens” - Henry A Ironside**

C. Paul Presenting Christ In A Searching City

I. Christ The Fulfillment Of Intellectual Desire

(vv 17-21)

A. Paul in the synagogue and the market (v 17)

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

B. Athens the philosophic center of the world

1. The Epicureans taught self expression

2. The Stoics taught self repression

C. The philosophers challenge him

Babbler = Empty talker

I. Christ The Fulfillment Of Intellectual Desire

(vv 17-21)

D. Paul taught them of the cross and resurrection of Jesus

1. Deep enough for philosophers to ponder

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

2. Yet simple enough for a child to receive

Mark 10:35

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

I. Christ The Fulfillment Of Intellectual Desire

(vv 17-21)

E. Christ was the intellectual's intellectual

1. He needed no teachers concerning the mind of man

Luke 2:46-47

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

I. Christ The Fulfillment Of Intellectual Desire

(vv 17-21)

E. Christ was the intellectual's intellectual - continued

2. He understood the nature of man

John 2:23-25

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

II. Christ The Fulfillment Of Religious Desire (vv 22-26)

A. “I perceive that you are very religious”

B. Why is man religious by nature?

1. He was created to have fellowship with God

2. He is a sinner and therefore feels guilty

3. The law of God is written in his heart

Romans 2:14-15

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

II. Christ The Fulfillment Of Religious Desire (vv 22-26)

C. Paul introduces “The unknown God”

1. Why was the altar there?

2. Man worships in ignorance

John 4:22

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

D. The unknown God can be known

2 Timothy 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

II. Christ The Fulfillment Of Religious Desire (vv 22-26)

E. We know God through faith in Christ

John 14:5-6

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

F. Trusting Christ fulfills the need to have fellowship with God

III. Christ The Fulfillment Of Emotional Desire

(vv 27-34)

A. Feeling after God to find Him

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

B. Christ meets the emotional needs of those who come to Him through the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

C. Emotional satisfaction is fulfilled in Jesus

Jesus Is All We Need