

**Sooke Baptist Church**



Sunday, June 14, 2020, 10 am,  
Facebook Live Stream and YouTube



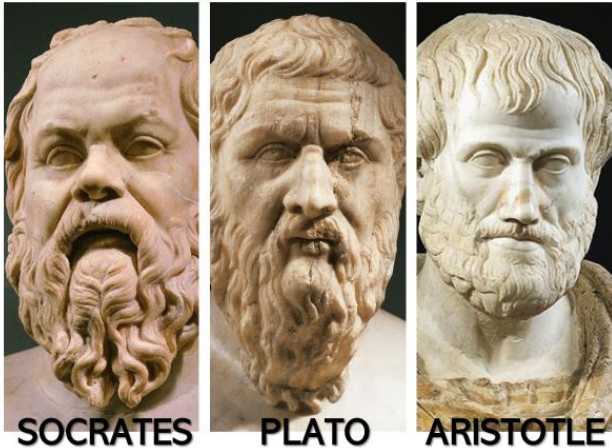
**Coffee/Question:**  
Have you ever been greatly  
distressed by something?  
What did you do?

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**Acts 17:16-34**

**Read v.16a.**

Paul was escorted to Athens where he waited for Silas and Timothy to join him. This time alone afforded him the perfect opportunity to see the sights.... to visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Agora, the Areopagus (Mars Hill), the Stoa of Attalus... and to walk the streets which Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle had walked 400-500 years before.



**Read v.16.**

What stood out about Athens and what impacted Paul...was the plethora of idols. The phrase “greatly distressed” comes from the Greek verb “paroxuno” from which we get our English word paroxysm.

## PAROXYSM

(n.) a sudden outburst of emotion

Paul experienced an intense provocation in his spirit because of Athens idolatry.



**30,000 idols** | 10,000 people

In a city of approximately **10,000 people**... there were an estimated **30,000 idols**.

Peterronius, an ancient historian remarked, “In Athens it was easier to find a god than a man.”

Pausanias said, “Athens had more images than all of Greece put together.”

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/cbb/acts-17.html>

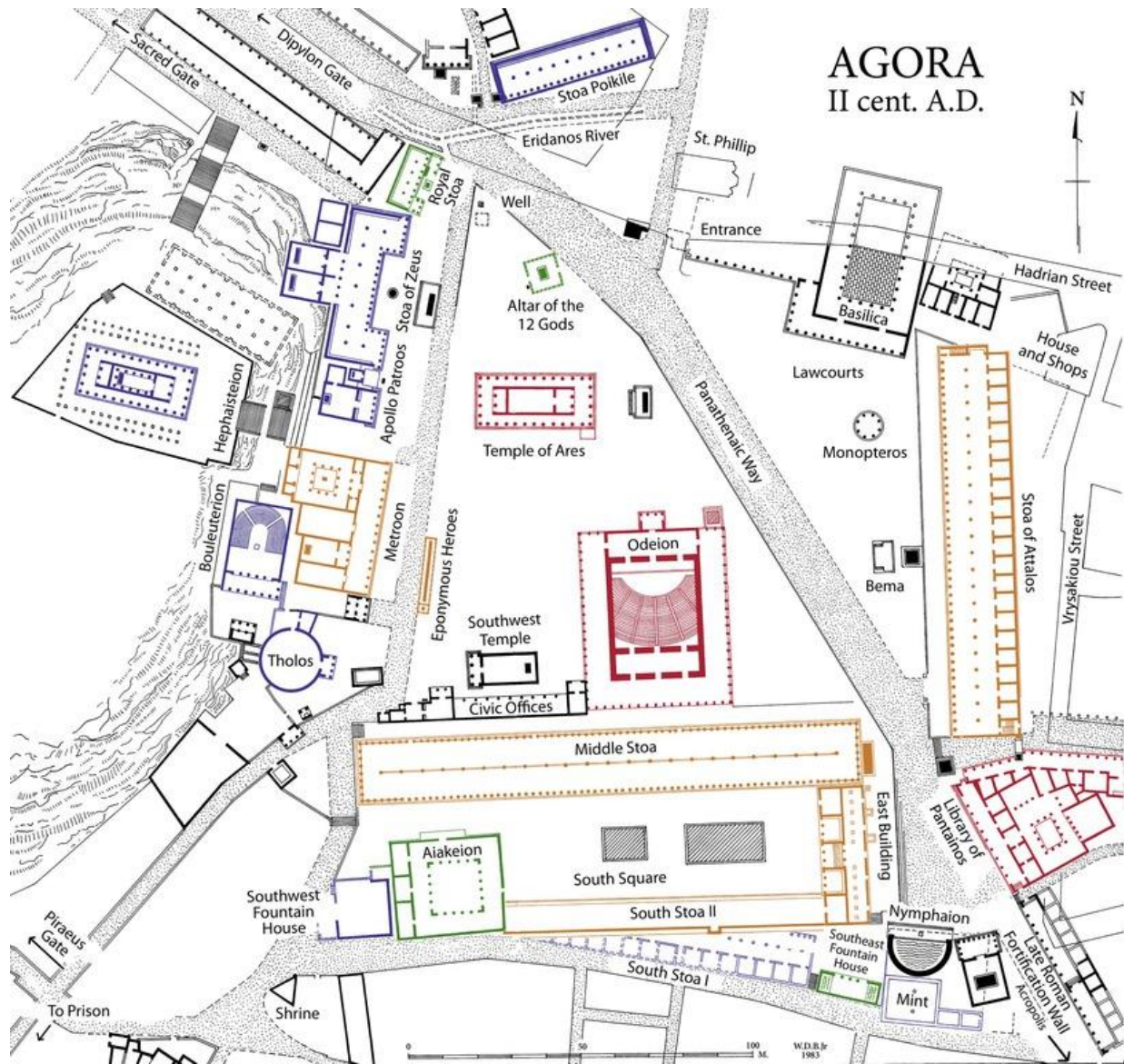
- What we want to watch for.... in order that we might connect the truth of Scripture to our own lives... is why – why did the presence of idols upset Paul as it did.
- It is also important as we connect the truth to our own lives...to see what Paul did with his distress.

### **Read v.16-17**

This is hugely significant.

Paul’s distress motivated him... to challenge the status quo in Athens... by preaching the gospel of Jesus to the people who lived there....in the synagogue and in the marketplace.

The marketplace was known as the Agora.



It was a central... public space... found in Greek city-states of that time. In the Agora, you would find a mix of temples and altars, government buildings, shops, offices, and shelters known as stoas which provided protection from the elements and a welcoming place for conversation and discussion.



John Stott observes that the agora was the equivalent of today's "park, a shopping mall, a 'pub,' neighborhood bar, a coffee shop or student cafeteria..." (1990:281). <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/Acts/Witness-Athens>

At the marketplace, the Agora, Paul came into contact with two specific groups of people.

**Read v.18-21.**

Paul met some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.

As they listened to Paul reason about Jesus and the resurrection, they began to debate with him.

One group thought he was a babbler.

This word in Greek literally means, "a seed-picker."

It signifies someone who scavenges for any bits of knowledge he can find, like a bird ready to pounce on a stray scrap of food.

The other group accused him of advocating foreign gods.

They were in effect acknowledging there was no one like Jesus among the pantheon of gods in Athens.

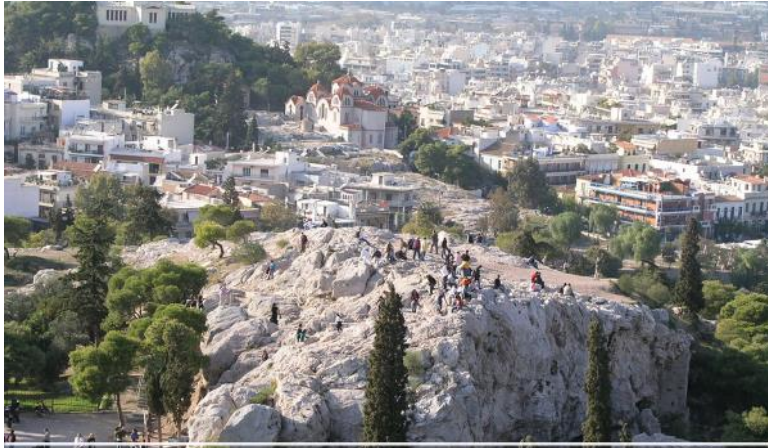
But both were curious enough to bring him to a meeting of the Aeropagus.



What was the Aeropagus?

gotquestions.org explains:

Northwest of the city of Athens, Greece, is a small hill covered in stone seats.



The Aeropagus (Mar's Hill)

This area was once used as a forum for the rulers of Athens to hold trials, debate, and discuss important matters.

However, this purpose had changed by the time Paul appeared before them. Though the council was still involved in criminal trials, it was curiosity and not prosecution that seemed to be the reason why they asked Paul to speak to them.

Those who listened to Paul were philosophers, they were intellectuals. They were good at asking questions and speculating about answers.

Paul would write in his second letter to Timothy to be cautious of those who are...

**“...always learning  
but never able to  
come to a knowledge  
of the truth.”**

2 Timothy 3:7

It can be intimidating to share the gospel with such people.  
But dear believer.... you have something a philosopher or intellectual doesn't have – you know God through Jesus Christ.

So, tell them what you know – this is what Paul did.

**Read v.22-23.**

Paul affirmed their spiritual aspirations – “you are very religious.”

He didn't criticize them.

He was courteous.

He had paid attention to...that is, he had looked “carefully” at their objects of worship... and discovered a point to begin – the altar to an unknown god.

Paul attempted to build a bridge that would span the gap between their ignorance and the truth of Jesus Christ.

**Read v.24-25.**

Example of Andres when the team was in Colombia.

As he shared the gospel, he didn't start with Jesus, he began at the beginning.

This is what Paul did.

God made the world and everything in it.

This is crucial.

Follower of Jesus you may feel inadequate to answer a scientist who argues that this world and all the life in it, including ours... is but the result of long periods of time and chance.

Still tell them the story of the Bible.

Tell them the explanation for the design and the beauty and the interconnectedness and the purpose of this world and human being...is because God made the world and everything in it.

His fingerprints are everywhere, and they are clearly seen.



We live in God's world; he doesn't live in our temples.  
The Creator God is in no way dependent on humanity – as if somehow, we complete him; that we give to him something he doesn't have.

It's the very opposite.

Our life is a gift from him.  
He determines both our birthday and our deathday...and every day in between.

Every breath we take is a gift from him.

**18**  
**1,080**  
**25,920**  
**9,460,800**

It is estimated that each of us takes 18 breaths a minute; 1,080 an hour; 25,920 a day; 9,460,800 a year.

In addition to all of this, "everything else" – our senses, our abilities, our opportunities – are given to us... from him.

**Read v.26.**

The clear message of the Bible is that no nation or race is superior.

**"Despite the differences of pigments, stature and features that exist around the world, there is only one race of mankind."**

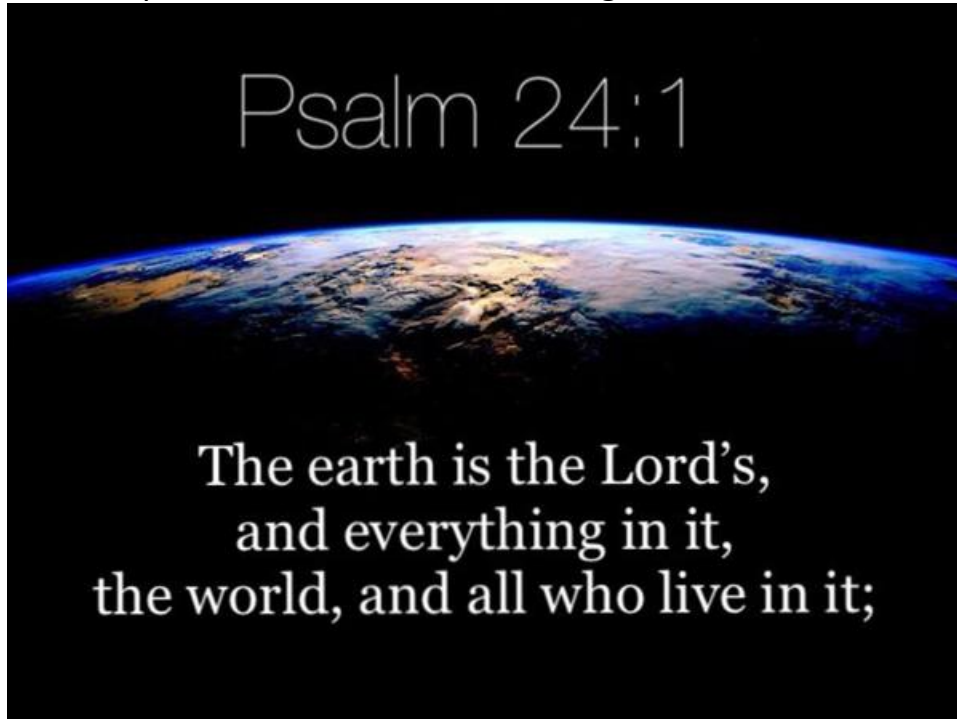
**Ray Stedman**

We all come from one source.

God created humankind with the ability to procreate in order that we might fill... and inhabit the earth... and in doing so... rightly steward on God's behalf its resources and the animal creatures.

The gathering of people groups... into nations is God's idea.

But interestingly enough it is a common human tendency to claim land as our own, in spite of the fact that the message of the Bible is:



God sets the boundaries of a nation.  
He determines when a nation rises and when it falls.

In all matters, the Creator God directs history – moving it towards the fulfilling of what he has planned.

What is God's over-arching purpose for history?

**Read v.27.**

God's desire is that we would seek him....reach out of him...and find him.

The events of history – the blessings, the tragedies, the good times, the crises...reveal the character of God and humanity's need for God.

God works in history in order to awaken us, to draw us, to lead us to repentance and faith in Jesus.

God is not distant nor uninterested in humanity as the Epicurean philosophers taught.

He is the God who in Jesus Christ has come near...in order to save; in order to be with us.

**Read v.28.**

Paul quoted from two poets.

The first was a Cretan, named Epimenides.

The second was a Cilician, named Aratus.

Neither of these poets knew the Creator God.

But in their thoughts... Paul emphasized for his audience... two biblical truths.

1. This world and all who live in... are sustained by God.  
Were God to remove his hand...from our lives...from the earth...from the universe...the result would be chaos and ruin.

2. Human life has dignity and purpose and is precious because human beings are created in the likeness of God.

**Read v.29a – Therefore...**

The members of the Areopagus were used to just listening and debating.

Paul was going to call them to respond to the gospel news...to make a decision.

**Read v.29b.**

Human worth is not something we instill on ourselves.

Our worth is inseparably connected to the fact that we are created in the image of God – we are God's offspring.

Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

That phrase, "fall short," literally means, "lack."

**Romans 1:21-23**

**<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

**<sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.**

These verses say that in refusing to glorify, that is, to magnify, to lift up and hold God in a place of pre-eminence...along with a refusal to thank him... darkness entered into our first parents' heart and mind, and the result of that... was that through them the human race exchanged, that is, they traded away, they despised the worth and beauty and majesty of God.

I know that this example doesn't even come close.

But still consider it.

Imagine yours was the wealth of the entire world.

And you exchanged it... for this stick – for something of no value.

Would others not say of you and to you...what a foolish, tragic choice?

This is what Paul told the Athenians they had done.

They had exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images...for idols made of gold or silver or stone – idols made by human design and skill – idols made to look like a mortal human being or as he had written in Romans 1....a bird or an animal or a reptile.

But it was not just the Athenians... all human beings are idolaters – for if... it is not the Creator, then it is something else we worship – for we are incurably religious and must worship...something.

Not everyone may have an idol that they bow to and adore and place gifts before. But in our western culture there are many idols which are worshiped:

- Money
- Power
- Success
- Sex
- Experiences
- Significance
- Fame
- Health
- Youthfulness

**Read v.30-31.**

God is the Creator, and he is the Judge.  
As the Judge he has set a day.

What that means is that there is a moment in time coming, when all of us will appear before him to give an account of our life.

At that moment ...God will answer the cry of those who have asked him for justice... and he will make all things right... he will hold accountable all those who have harmed others and his earth.

On that day he will banish sin and death to a place where they can no longer influence.

He will make all things new.

The scripture is clear – God will judge the world.... by the man he has appointed.  
Who is that man?

He is the One whom God raised from the dead.

Who was raised from the dead?

There is only one person – Jesus the Christ.

Through him, through the sacrifice of his life, God offers to humanity, an amnesty, the forgiveness of sin.



Everything pivots on Jesus Christ.

But in order to receive God's amnesty, one will have to repent...  
...to change their mind and the direction of their life... and place their faith and trust in God's Savior.

This was the good news which Paul spoke of to the Areopagus in Athens.

**Read v.32-34.**

Some sneered.

The Greeks did not believe in immortality; they viewed the human body as evil, and death as the cessation of existence.

The very suggestion of a dead person being resurrected was a concept for which they had no categories.

A God who can raise the dead is a God to be reckoned with.

So they shut Paul down.

They could listen to other novel ideas.

But the news of a God who creates, sustains, controls, directs all things.... and who calls all people to repent and place their faith in his Savior...this was too much.

Some delayed – we want to hear you again.  
Maybe it was a legitimate need on their part for greater understanding.  
But maybe it was a deflection to put off having to repent.

Some believed – Dionysius, Damaris, and a number of others.  
The Scripture says – do not despise the day of small things.

We know nothing else about the church at Athens, or what became of the individuals that were named.  
Except that in the midst of darkness, the light of Jesus began to shine, and a church was born.

From this handful of believers, the power of the gospel began to impact the intellectual capital of the world of that day, bringing alive those who had been spiritually dead.

The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

## The Blessing

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Only the gospel of Jesus addresses the core issue of what is wrong with human beings and the cultures they build.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said:



The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between political parties either - but right through every human heart.

(Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn)

izquotes.com



Jesus said this about the human heart.

Mark 7:14-23

<sup>14</sup> Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup> Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." <sup>17</sup> After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. <sup>18</sup> "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? <sup>19</sup> For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

<sup>20</sup> He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Jesus did not provide an exhaustive list of what comes out of the human heart.

But what he did do... is make it unmistakably clear that the source of evil is to be found in the human heart.

And not just in the heart of a few or even many...but in of all of us.

The reason why this is....may surprise you.

It has everything to do with who or what a person worships.

When the people of the ancient kingdom of Israel were exiled to Assyria, God told them why the this had happened to them.

2 Kings 17:14-18

<sup>14</sup>But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. <sup>15</sup>They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep.

**They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless.**

They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, "Do not do as they do."<sup>16</sup>They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. <sup>17</sup>They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sought omens and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger. <sup>18</sup>So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence.

What these people worshiped shaped who they became.

They turned from God... to worthless things.

And it was those worthless things:



along with the practice of sorcery

...which emptied their lives of meaning and purpose.

By nature, human beings are worshipers.

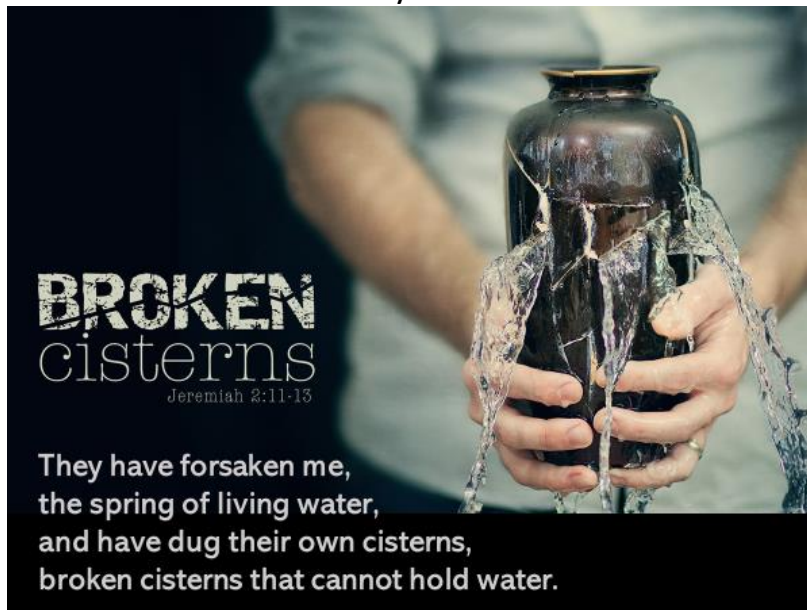
Humans instinctively worship those things that they believe will provide them with purpose and worth, and whatever is worshiped defines and shapes who a person becomes.

This is where the message of the Bible challenge all of us.

For in the Bible we learn that there is... nothing and no one.... apart from the Creator God who has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ.... capable of captivating, satisfying and sustaining the human soul.

It wasn't just the sheer abundance of idols in Athens that provoked Paul's spirit. The idols were only the symptoms of an even greater humanitarian crisis - the abject spiritual poverty of the people of Athens.

The Athenians were looking to quench the thirst of their soul with supposed gods that Paul knew would only leave them thirstier.



The Athenians were trying to satiate their soul hunger with things that Paul knew would never satisfy.

He knew what God had said through the prophet Isaiah regarding the folly of idolatry.



Isaiah 44:19-20

<sup>19</sup> No one stops to think,  
no one has the knowledge  
or understanding to say,  
“Half of it I used for fuel;  
I even baked bread  
over its coals,  
I roasted meat and I ate.

Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left?  
Shall I bow down to a block of wood?

<sup>20</sup> **Such a person feeds on ashes;  
a deluded heart misleads him;**

he cannot save himself, or say,

**“Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”**

What would happen if someone tried to nourish themselves and their family on a diet of ashes?

Besides making themselves ill, we all know they would starve to death.

It is a similar scenario with those who attempt to nourish their soul through the worship of an idol(s).

They will spiritually starve.

The gospel of Jesus doesn't sugar coat the human condition.

It tells the truth of who humanity was created to be.

It explains what has happened to us and the world we live in.

And then... it announces the most incredible news.

This certainty of the return of Jesus... and the requirement that all appear before him to give an account of their lives.... is the context for the command which God has communicated to all people.... to repent.

As much as our culture loves to talk of everyone having their own truth, it is God who is the plumbline of truth – of what is right and what is wrong.

He will

He has infused human beings with dignity and purpose by creating them in his likeness.

God has verbally communicated truth to humankind – he has told us how to live rightly.

replacing the Creator God with something inferior

As I earlier said.

Human were created to worship God – and from him and only from him... to receive worth and purpose.

in an exalted

Idols are but the evidence that sin exists

The life every human being has...is a gift from God  
Humanity lives in the world which the Creator God made.

Human beings are God's offspring, in the sense that we are made in his image  
Human life is sustained by the providence of the Creator God.

Speaking of an “Unknown God,” Paul tied the Athenians’ search for truth to the reality of the gospel.

Not everyone who heard Paul accepted his words.

Some found his teaching about the resurrection to be unbelievable.

But others, including a man named Dionysius, and a woman named Damaris, along with a number of others believed in Jesus after hearing the Word.

Epicurus (342-270 B.C.) taught that pleasure was the chief end of human existence.

When Paul spoke at the Aeropagus he declared that knowing God is the chief end of human existence.

Epicurus believed that the universe came into existence by a chance combination of atoms.

Paul told them it was this unknown God who made the world and everything in it.

Epicurus believed there were many gods, but taught that they were distant, and didn't care about human behavior or involve themselves in human affairs.

Therefore, why worry and be concerned about what they thought.

Paul also advocated that rather than being uninvolved, the unknown God was actively involved with humanity, to the extent that he even determined when a nation should rise and fall and what would be its boundaries.

Epicurus taught that at death a person ceases to be...therefore why be fearful of death.

Paul spoke of the resurrection from the dead, introducing the idea that there is life after death.

The Stoics believed in the supremacy of human reason, and that being guided by human reason human beings can be self-sufficient and perfect.

Paul boldly stated this was not the case... it is the unknown God who sustains all life, and that without him there would be nothing.

This God they had not known now commands all people everywhere to repent.

The Stoics believed that at death the soul was absorbed into God.

Paul told them that this God you do not know has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this by raising him from the dead (verse 31).

[http://www.affinity.org.uk/downloads/foundations/Foundation%20Archive/51\\_19.pdf](http://www.affinity.org.uk/downloads/foundations/Foundation%20Archive/51_19.pdf)

The Stoics followed the teachings of Zeno (332-260 B.C.), who thought that the good lies in the soul itself, which through wisdom and restraint delivers a person from the passions and desires that perturb ordinary life.

The Stoics tried to live in harmony with nature and put great emphasis on man's rational ability, his self-sufficiency, and his obedience to duty.

This emphasis on their own ability also filled them with pride.

They were pantheistic, regarding God as the World-soul.

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-44-reaching-intellectuals-christ-acts-1716-34>

The founder of the Stoics, Zeno, lost a fortune while sailing to Athens, but once there he discovered something he prized much more highly—philosophy. He taught a pantheistic view of God that emphasized duty and discipline in the face of unalterable fate.

William Henley's famous poem, "Invictus," is really a modern expression of Stoicism:

Out of the night that covers me  
Black as the pit from pole to pole  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.  
In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced, nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeoning of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.  
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the horror of the shade  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.  
It matters not how straight the gate,  
How charged with punishment the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

Paul opens up a dialogue with these philosophers. (18-21)

They discover him preaching the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection in the marketplace (verse 18) and engage him in debate.

Two major reactions to his ideas are recorded.

1. They seem to dismiss him as “a seedpicker” and an advocate of foreign gods. The term used in the NIV is “babbler” in verse 18, but the word in Greek means literally, “a seed-picker.”



It signifies someone who scavenges for any bits of knowledge he can find, like a bird ready to pounce on a stray scrap of food. In accusing him of advocating foreign gods, they in effect acknowledge there is no one like Jesus among the pantheon of gods in Athens.

2. Yet due to his intellectual ability and their curiosity, they grant him a hearing. Paul must have made an impression on them, for the decision is made to bring him to the Areopagus, a gathering of leading intellectuals who serve as a panel to challenge and investigate new ideas.

He doesn't shy away from these skeptics and their hard questions, and in that he reminds me of modern voices like Francis Schaeffer, Josh McDowell, R. C. Sproul, and Charles Colson—bold apologists who do not fear confronting the culture with truth.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20081204105112/http://fefcwichita.org/pdfsermon/2007/070408ma.pdf>

Epicureans were atheists; they denied life after death; they were materialists – this life was all there was. They believed pleasure was the highest virtue and pain was the opposite. Their motto was – eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. They were the existentialists of that day. Stoics were pantheists – they believed God is in everything. Their motto was “grin and bear it.” They were proud fatalists.

The Epicureans were contemptuous of Paul and his message of Christ. The word “babbler” literally means seed-pecker; a collector of fragments of truth, who tried to impress people with his seeming knowledge. The Stoics were curious only because anything new interested them.

The idols in the city convinced Paul that there was in the people of Athens a great spiritual hunger; a sense that there was more, there was something beyond them and they were compelled to seek for it.

But the idols, which provoked Paul, revealed that this longing had been perverted. The idolatry of the city was like a thick cloud that smothered and blocked out the truth of God.

As is always the case with idolatry, the gods of the Greeks were mere extensions of themselves, for people make their gods to be in their own image.

1. **5 steps to effective witnessing:**
2. **Step #1** Find a **Positive Place to Start!** (22)
3. Start where they are, "You guys are obviously very religious."
4. He didn't blast them with a mean spirited "you pagan Idolaters!"
  1. Most people have something in their background about **religion** that makes a good starting place!

5. **Step #2** Use the **Familiar** to introduce the **Unfamiliar!** (23)
6. I would like to tell you of the **unknowable** God, who has made Himself **Knowable!**
  1. Our God is **Incomprehensible**, yet **Knowable!**
7. What he does here is **builds a bridge** that would hopefully span the gap between their ignorance & the truth of Christ.
  1. Paul basically says, "You Athenians have given me a text. I start where you leave off!"
8. (Spurg) "I believe a very large majority of churchgoers are merely **unthinking, slumbering worshipers** of an **unknown God.**" (*Charles H. Spurgeon in Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 11. Christianity Today, Vol. 40, no. 1.*)
9. **Step #3** Clearly **Present God!** (24-28a)
10. (24) He is **Creator!** so He can't be **contained!**
11. (25) He is **Self-Sufficient!** so He has **no needs!**
  1. [Ps.50:10-12](#) "For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness."
12. (26,27) He is **Intelligent!** so He has **a plan!**
  1. He made man to instinctively long for God.
  2. But often times men aren't seeking for God to find them!
    1. (Like when we'd play **kick the can**, & we all went into my friends house & left the guy that was it, all to himself)
  3. The turning point in our lives is when we "stop seeking the God we **want**" and "start seeking the God **who is.**" (*Patrick Morley in The Seasons of a Man's Life. Leadership, Vol. 17, no. 3.*)
13. (28a) He is the **Sustainer!** so we are **dependent** on Him.
  1. Here he quotes from **Epimenades** (Gk. Poet) – "for in Him we live & move & have our being."
14. **Step #4** Be **Relevant!** (28b)
15. Here he quotes from **Aratus** (Gk. Poet).
  1. The entire poem: "Never, O man, let us leave him unmentioned. All ways are full of **Zeus** & all meeting-places of men; the sea & the harbors are full of him. In every direction we all have to do with **Zeus; for we are also his offspring.**" (*F.F.Bruce, Acts*)
    1. Showing them that **their own Poets** believe in a **creator-god.**
  2. Paul takes this Poem about **Zeus** & reveals its true subject...**Christ!**
16. **Step #5** Make it **Personal!** (29-31)
17. (29) Augustine said, "Idolatry is **worshipping** anything that ought to be **used**, or **using** anything that is meant to be **worshipped.**" (*Augustine, Leadership, Vol. 4, no. 4.*)
18. (30) Repent is a command! – It is not left optional.
19. (31) He's not only **Creator...**but **Judge!**
  1. Your actions **today** do impact your lives **beyond the grave...**where the resurrected Jesus awaits!
20. **3 RESPONSES!** (32-34)
21. **SOME MOCK!** (32a)
22. Did you know it is **impossible** to talk about God **behind his back?**
23. Did you know you **cannot** speak of God **in His absence?**

1. Then, to deny Him is to spite Him,...to His face.
24. **SOME DELAY!** (32b)
25. They put it off "till later"!
  1. Like shopping & you tell the clerk, "I think I'll be back to purchase something", when you really have no intention on getting it.
26. Or, were interested in hearing them again...but only from an **intellectual** point of view!
27. **SOME BELIEVE!** (34)
28. One was Dionysius (Dia-nis'-sius). He was a member of the Areopagus council.
29. The **gospel** wasn't very well received in **Athens!** [Prob won't be on Paul's Highlight Films!]
  1. Matter of fact this was the **1st & last** mention of Athens in scripture.
    1. We don't know if any **church** was planted there?
30. **End:**
31. **Believers:**
32. Look around who is in **your** marketplace?
33. Quote Poem: by *George MacLeod* (from Chuck Swindoll, Acts)
34. I simply argue that **the cross** be raised again at the center of the **market place** as well as on the **steeple of the church**, I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not **crucified** in a cathedral between **two candles**: But on a cross between **two thieves**; on a town garbage heap; At a **crossroad of politics** so cosmopolitan that they had to write in Hebrew & in Latin & in Greek...And at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, & thieves curse & soldiers gamble Because that is **where** He died, and that is **what** He died about. And that's **where** Christ's men ought to be, & what church people ought to be about.