

ACTS: Church On Mission

Part 47- Why Religion Is Never The Point & Misses The Point

Acts 17:16-34- "Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked w/in him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue w/ the Jews & the devout persons, & in the marketplace every day w/ those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean & Stoic philosophers also conversed w/ him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"--because he was preaching Jesus & the resurrection. And they took him & 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 & the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. 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 & observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar w/ this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world & everything in it, being Lord of heaven & 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 & breath & everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods & the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him & find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live & move & 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 & 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; & of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." 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 & believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite & a woman named Damaris & others w/ them."

- **City's Full Of Idols:**
- Exodus 20:1-5- "And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third & the fourth generation of those who hate me."
- **Hearts' Full Of Religion**
- **Who God Really Is:**
- **8 Kinds Of Gods In The Pantheon VS. God (VS. 24-29)**
- **Who He Is Not:**
- **It's Relevant For Us Today:**
- **Judgment Is Coming:**
- **Mercy Is Available**
- **RESPONSE:**
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- **3 Responses When You 1st Hear This:**
- Mocked- your worthless idols will one day mock you
- Hear More- just don't stay there
- Believe & Join- repent, be baptized & join community
- **Some Here Are Growing In Religion**
- Mark 10:45- "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, & to give his life as a ransom for many."
- **Some Are Growing In Repentance:**
- **Some Think Their Worshipping Jesus, But It's Really An Idol**