

Acts 17:16-34
Preaching To Philosophers

Introduction:

When Paul arrived in Athens he indeed had his work cut out for him. He wasn't an amateur in Greek Philosophy. He was well trained at a prestigious university in Tarsus. He knew even the Greek poets and quoted them when they were in harmony with Scripture. For "in God we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, "For we also are His offspring" (Acts 17:28)

Although Paul was quite capable in apologetics, his primary mission was preaching. He was proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. "He was preaching Jesus and the resurrection"– (v.18)

I. God Is Creator Of All Things –V.24

A. First impression of Athens

1. "a city full of idols" –v. 16; Exo. 20:4,5
2. A learning center of philosophy – Col. 2:8;

B. Two Philosophies:

1. Epicurean – Luke 12:18
2. Stoics – v.18

C. Paul's Apologetic:

1. To preach the good news of Christ
2. To capture their attention – "To an unknown God" v.22,23

D. Paul's Introduction to the Gospel

1. He observed their object of worship - I Cor. 1:21-23
2. God has not left Himself without a witness of creation –v.24; Psa. 14:1; Rom. 1:19-23
3. Man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie – Rom. 1:25 what is God? – Shorter Catechism)

II. God Is Sustainer Of All Things – v.25

A. He provides for all our needs

B. He needs nothing but is complete in Himself

1. He sustains the entire universe – Col. 1:17
2. He sustains everything despite storm, earthquake, famine and pestilence – Gen. 1:26,28

III. God is Ordainer Of All Things –v. 26

A. He has determined, Greek word – horizon, our word 'horizon' God has marked all our boundary lines.

B. God's eternal decree – Westminster Confession – "whatsoever comes to pass"...

Conclusion:

1. *What our response to God should be – v.27 (God's Omnipresence)*
2. *We have failed to seek God – Rom. 3:11*
3. *We have been made in the image of God – v.29*
4. *God seeks us through repentance –v.30; I Thess. 1:9; John 14:6; Acts 16:31; Heb. 9:27*

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