

PAUL IN ATHENS Acts 17:16-34

5 centuries earlier, Athens had been the greatest city in the world, the epicenter of Western _____

I. WHAT PAUL SAW Acts 17:16

- A. Even today over _____ people visit Athens each yr to see the remains of the Parthenon & Acropolis
- B. But Paul found the city “given over to _____”; in fact Paul invented a word to describe what he saw

II. WHAT PAUL FELT Acts 17:16

- A. “His spirit was _____ within him”—this verb in the original language gives our Eng. word “paroxysm”
- B. This same word is used repeatedly in the Greek version of the OT of God’s reaction to _____
- C. Paul’s emotion was not an over-reaction but a _____ response to how Athens treated the 1 true God

III. WHAT PAUL DID Acts 17:17-21

- A. The fact that the idolatry of Athens provoked Paul compelled him to _____ in 3 ways:
1) the synagogue; 2) the marketplace; and 3) he encountered _____
- B. They were: 1) Epicureans who believed there was no life after death so men should pursue moderation between pleasure and pain; 2) Stoics who believed in _____ so men should endure & pursue duty
- C. They labelled Paul a “babbling,” referring to a scavenger bird and in his case, an intellectual _____
- D. They invited Paul to present his _____ at the Areopagus—Mars Hill—a council of the city’s leaders

IV. WHAT PAUL SAID Acts 17:22-34

A. INTRODUCTION 17:22-23

- 1) Paul praised them as “very _____,” a word that can be taken positively but negatively as well
- 2) Paul used an idol that he saw as a bridge, as common ground: the altar to the _____ god

B. GOD IS _____ 17:24

- 1) Paul preached this truth even though they rejected it: we must not be cowed by ridicule of the _____
- 2) Paul’s conclusion: the God big enough to create the _____ cannot be contained in an idol

C. GOD IS _____ 17:25

God not only created all things, He sustains & provides all things. Those who worship idols and feed them have it 180 degrees _____; God has no need for human beings to provide for Him! (Ps.50)

D. GOD IS _____ 17:26-27

- 1) All humans are of one blood—medically; the only race mentioned in the Bible is the _____ race
- 2) God controls human history; “He is not far from each one of us,” therefore we should _____ Him

E. GOD IS _____ 17:28-29

- 1) Paul quotes a Stoic poet: “We are His offspring.” Gen.1 puts it: we are made in the _____ of God
- 2) If we have a nature like God’s, then God is living and spirit and it makes no sense to worship _____

F. GOD IS _____ 17:30-31

- 1) God overlooked their ignorance of Him but He now commands all men to _____ of false beliefs
- 2) God will _____ men through a man He raised from the dead: this statement broke up the meeting

G. GOD (IN THE PERSON OF _____) IS SAVIOR What Paul did not get to say!

- 1) Paul did not get to _____ the gospel because the Greeks believed so strongly that the body is evil
- 2) The most important part of the good news was left unsaid: few converts and no _____ founded