

050822A

INTRODUCTION

1. Missions & "Mars Hill."
2. Acts 17 - a paradigm of how to "do missions." Find a point of connection.
 - i. Mutual indictment: Paul offends idols & Areop offends God [Rm 1:18ff]
 - ii. The Creator is the point of connection. Man, image of God, is obligated to worship God; accountable to God for immoral ignorance - v29
 - iii. Paul calls for repentance & faith in the resurrected Jesus.
3. Paul was *taken* to Areop b/c he was *preaching Jesus & the resurrection* [v18; v31-32]. The gospel is good news to sinners from the Creator.

1st: It is Foolish to Try to Contain the Creator in Any Man-Made Thing - v24

1. Paul's message based on structure of Biblical truth.
 - i. Recall Lystra - A14:15-17.
 - ii. Paul assumes Messiah's mission prophesied in Isaiah - A13:47
2. *The God* [not a god] *who* [personal, not cosmic force] *made the world* [cosmos] & *all thgs in it*. Creation is foundational to the gospel for the God who raises the dead is the God who created *ex nihilo* - Rm 4:17.
 - i. Isa 40:18-28 not Idols - Creator [v29f new strength = resurrection life]
 - ii. Isa 42:5 Servant song - v8 no graven [mad-made] idols!
 - iii. Isa 45 return from Bab [2nd Exo]: cosmic - v5-12. "Joy to the Word;" v16-25 [cited in Phil 2 re: Jesus]
 - iv. Creator = Savior -> saved creation! Isa 65:17-18
Context [v11-16: *the God of Truth* - recall Rm 1:25 *exchanged the truth of God for [the] lie*.

3. *since He* [this One: "The God"] *is Lord* [Sovereign] *of heaven & earth*:
 - i. *made the cosmos*: 2 realms: *heaven & earth* w/ respective *creatures in it*.
 - ii. Paganism knows nothing of transcendent God who is exalted ABOVE *heaven & earth* - Ps 57:5.
 - iii. Invisible things in heaven - Col 1:16-20; *the heavenly places* [Eph 1:3,20; 3:10; 6:12]. Powers & principalities.
 - iv. Pagans are blind to the God who IS & to what is - heaven & earth.
 - a. Heaven: rev of God's glory: creatures - pagan mistake for deities.
 - b. Earth: essential goodness - pagans fear b/c creation is fallen & hope for a balance tw/ equal conflicting forces of good & evil
 - v. Paganism's flaw is ontological - mistaken about reality: what is. 2C4:4
4. *Does not dwell in temples made w/ hands* - 1Kg 8:27; Isa 66:1-2
 - i. "Contain" = comprehend, measure & weigh - control, sustain, keep alive.
 - ii. Be alert to *made w/ hands* or *made w/o hands* - not *made w/ hands, that is to say, not of this creation* [Hb 9:11].
 - iii. Another pagan flaw: magic - sacramentalizing an object s.t. it has some inherent supernatural power. A17:22 *very superstitious*

Applic #1: We Cannot Retreat From the Doctrine of Creation

1. Rm 4:17 - 1T 4:1-5 Satan's strategy - targets Creator
2. interview w/ Stephen Meyer [Discovery Institute] WORLD March '21. "Seeing the Mind Behind the Universe" Gn 1:1

Applic #2: The Transcendent God Is Near to Us in the Gospel

THE UNCONTAINABLE GOD - A17:24

050822A

1. Paganism denies absolute transcendence of God & then remakes God in the image of man - Ps 50:21. We are like God, but God is not like us.
2. Pagans attempt to contain & control God.
3. God condescends to make Himself known: general & special revelation.
4. Jer 23:23-24 - Ps 139:7-8.
5. Isa 57:15 Isa 66:1-2 Is God near to us? Here?
6. God has come near to men - incarnated Son - A17:18 & v31-32. This good news is not found in paganism. Pagans are summoned to repent & believe in the resurrected Jesus.
7. Is God near to us here? Rm 10:8-13. Was God near to the Athenians? Is God near to us here? Rm 10:8-13