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INTRODUCTION

1. Athens - A17. Paul is informed by OT [Creation; Isa]: idolatry. Satan's strategy: deceive re: creation [1T 4:1-5].
2. Paul was *preaching Jesus & res* [v18] = goal [v31-32]. The professed ignorance of the God of whom they are aware but do not know: v22-23
  - i. Paul assumes Rm 1:18-25
  - ii. Paul assumes God, the Creator, has revealed Himself to Athenians.
3. v24 - last study. Paganism wld contain God w/i creation: foolish.

1<sup>st</sup>: It is Foolish to Try to Sustain the Life of the God Who Sustains Life - v25

1. Aseity - *a se* [from or by Himself] - independent of anythg outside Himself.
2. Paul denies pagan worship: that God is *served* so as to meet His *needs*
3. *served* - interesting term. Not "deacon" or "serve" of Exo 20:3-5. Rather: "therapeutic" - to heal, restore to health.
4. Pagan worship: man meets the *needs* ["to" + "beg"] of the deity. Idolatrous gods are not *a se*, but need men's worship for their health & well-being. If pagan improves life of god, then god will reciprocate for benefit of pagan.
5. Worshipers of true God have their needs met - not God. *He Himself* meets our needs: *life - all people - all things*.
6. Pagan hoped to honor specific gods who competed w/ other gods & thereby get that deity obligated to him to likewise honor the pagan.
7. Ps 50:7-15 God rebukes paganizing His worship: holy satire.
  - i. God wants heart devotion [*sac of thxgvg*] & He is glorified as He meets the needs of the worshiper - v15; Rm 11:35-36
8. A17:24-25 *hands off!* Man-made temple, rituals - asceticism: Col 2:23

2<sup>nd</sup>: It is Foolish to Think That the God Who Made All Men is Not the God of All Men v26

1. Creator, *made mankind* - break the back of idolatry: God made man, man does not make God. All men are created/made by one & the same God.

2. One source: *one man* [lit: *from one*]. KJV: *made of one blood*. Textual issues. What man comes to mind? Adam Gn 2:7; Noah - Gn 9:1
  - i. *blood - life is in the blood* [Lev 17:11-14; Gn 9:4]
  - ii. *every nation* = ethnicity.
    - a. 1 human race - many ethnicities: 5 pts of ref: 1] linguistic; 2] national; 3] racial [physical appearance]; 4] regional; & 5] religious.
    - b. Rv: *tribes, tongues, peoples & nations* - redeemed or earth-dwellers.
3. *inhabit - all the face of the earth* = OT reference [Gn 11:4, 9]
  - i. men's location, place - *boundaries*
  - ii. *appointed times* - momentary - Isa 40:22-25
4. *Determined*: "horizon" - marks the edge, limits & fills - Gn 1:2, providence
5. Ethnic arrogance: "autochthonous" = self + soil: [indigenous, native-born]
6. Man's pride undergirds idolatry.

Applic #1: Sacrificial Worship is for the Benefit of the Worshiper: Not God

1. God gave provisions so that fallen Adam continued to live.
2. Pagan worship tries to manipulate & change the god. In biblical worship, the worshiper is changed: salvation. *You shall be holy b/c I am holy*.
3. Created & saved to be like God & to live w/ God: conformed to Christ.
4. Does worship glorify God? Yes - by our transformation - 2C 3:18.

Applic #2: The Purposes of the Creator Are Accomplished as the Savior

01. There is a "natural theology" - but in order to worship God, man must be supernaturally saved. Salvation issues into worship & worship is how we experience our salvation.
2. Without *Jesus and the resurrection*, men cannot worship the true God. Man try to obtain the benefits of salvation without the Savior: deception.

**Applic #3: Enjoy and Anticipate Table Fellowship with Christ**

1. Importance of Lord's Table - for you [1C 11:24; Jn 6:55-56]. Mat 26:26-28 *This cup is the NCov in My blood* [1C 11:25].
2. Mat 26:29 our hope is for a banquet, Lk 12:37 where Jesus will serve us! God reveals His glory & glorified Himself in our salvation - Isa 45:21-22.