

ACTS 17: INTRODUCING THE GOD NOBODY KNOWS

SUMMARY

Paul arrives in the city of Athens and notices many idols surrounding him. Representatives of popular ancient philosophies hold conversation with Paul and conclude he is bringing a preacher of a foreign god. Except Paul is bringing the truth of the news of the resurrection of Jesus. Paul gave a famous address at the Areopagus, stating they are a very religious people because they worship many things, but they don't know to what they worship. He points out one idol that was inscribed, "To an unknown god." Paul testifies the true God does not live in manmade things because he created and gives life to everything. Some mocked Paul but others believed and followed.

QUESTIONS

- What did Paul see in Athens? (17:16) How do you think it made him feel? What did he do after he saw them? (17:17; 22-24)
- An idol is *"an image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed or any person or thing regarded with admiration, adoration, or devotion."*
- Based on the above definition of an idol. What are some idols in our American culture? Are there any idols in your life that you need to give up and ask for forgiveness before the Lord?

ILLUSTRATION/LIVING IT OUT

- **Idols:** Find a picture of a temple idol online and share with your family. Explain many biblical idols, such as those we read in Acts 17, are hand carved from wood, ivory or a precious metal. Today, we see idols all around us even though we don't realize it. Collect household items: a sports ball (football, baseball, etc.), a dollar bill and perhaps magazine or DVD. Explain that idols can be sports teams, money, and celebrities/actors because anything we regard with the higher admiration and devotion over God would be considered an idol. Idolatry is a terrible sin against God. We need to immediately repent or turn back to God, pray for forgiveness, and strive to make Jesus number one in our lives above all else.

READ FOR THIS WEEK
ACTS 17:16-34

MAIN TOPICS

- Idolatry
- The True God – Creator & Giver of Life
- Sharing Jesus Using Popular Illustrations
- Christian Apologetics

CROSS REFERENCES

- Psalm 50:8-12
- 1 Corinthians 10:20
- 1 Peter 4:12

CHILDREN BIBLES/APP

- **Big Picture Story Bible:** "God's New Kingdom Spreads, Part 24, 418-426.

MEMORY VERSE
ACTS 17:24

READ FOR NEXT WEEK
FINISH ACTS IN 2015

