

PAUL SPEAKS IN ATHENS**Acts 17:16-34**

16Paul was in Athens [the main city in Greece]. He walked around the city and saw many, many idols – the city was full of idols. The idols upset Paul very much. 17So Paul went to the market place every day. He explained about Jesus to the people in the market place.

18Some Greek philosophers came to the market place – and the philosophers began to argue with Paul. Some of the philosophers said, “Paul is a blabbermouth. What is he talking about?” Other philosophers said, “Paul is talking about gods from foreign countries.” But, actually, Paul was talking about Jesus. Paul was saying: Jesus died on the cross for everyone – then Jesus became alive again.

19The philosophers took Paul to the famous, Greek Council Meeting. At the meeting, they said to Paul, “You are teaching new things. We want to know what you are teaching. 20You are saying strange things to us. What does it mean?”

22Then Paul stood up. Paul said, “Men of Athens! I walked around your city – and I looked at your many idols and altars. You are very religious. 23 I even saw a special altar. On the altar was written: A GOD WE DO NOT KNOW. You worship a God you do not know, so I will tell you about him.

24“The God (you do not know) made the world – and he made everything in the world. This God is the Lord of heaven and earth. This God does not live in a temple made by people. 25People do not help this God – because this God needs nothing. Actually, this God gives everything to us! He gives all people life and breath.

26““This God made the people of every country – he made every country from one man [Adam]. He wanted people to fill the whole earth. This God decided the exact place for each country – he decided the exact place where the people from each country should live. And he decided the exact time when people should live there.

27““Why did God do this? This God wants people to look for him. Then, maybe they will reach out for him. And maybe they will find him – because this God is close to you and to me. 28This God is close to us because we live in him – we move in him – we exist in him. Your Greek poets said, “We are God’s children” – and that is true.

29“**If** we are God’s children, then this God is not made of gold or silver or stone – we should not think this. This God is not a statue or picture that people made. This God did not come from people’s imagination. We did not make him with our hands. 30No, this is ignorant thinking. So this God commands all people everywhere: You must repent.

31““We must repent because this God will judge the world. God already scheduled the

day he will judge the world – and God already chose the judge – the judge is Jesus Christ. We all know that Jesus Christ is the judge. Why? Because Jesus died – then God made Jesus alive again.”

32Some people at the Council Meeting laughed – some said, “We want to hear more” –
34and a few believed.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did Paul see in Athens? (verse 16)
- How did Paul feel about the many idols in Athens? (verse 16)
- Who did Paul talk to in the market place? (verse 18)
- What 2 things did the philosophers say about Paul? (verse 18)
- Was Paul talking about a God from a foreign country? (verse 18)

Who was Paul talking about? (verse 18)

Where did Jesus actually come (to earth) from?

Who did Jesus actually come to earth for?

- Where did the philosophers take Paul? (verse 19)
- (Paul talked at the council meeting.) What special altar did he see in Athens? (verse 23)
- Who is the “God you do not know”? What does he do? (verses 24)
 - How is this God special? – unique? (verse 24)
- Does this God live in a temple on earth? (verse 24)
- Can we do anything for this God? (verse 25) Does he need us to help him?
 - What does this God give to us? (verse 25)
- Who gave you your beautiful country? (verse 26) Who gave you your country at this time?

- Why did this God do these things for us? (verse 27)

Why do you think Creator God wants us to look for him and find him?

- Is this God close to us or far from us? (verse 27-28)
 - Where did our life come from? Can we live outside of this God? Can we do anything outside of this God? (verse 28)
- What special relationship do we have with this God? (verse 28)
- What did the Greeks already know about this God? (What did Greek poets say?) (verse 28)

What do you already know about God?

Who do you think God is?

- Did this God come from our imagination? (verse 29)
 - Was this God made by our hands? (verse 29)
 - Why not? (verse 29)

What do you think: Can children make their father?

Do you think that people can make God the Father?

- What does this God want us to do? (verse 30)
 - Who should repent? Who does Creator God want to repent? (verse 30)
 - Why is it important to repent? (verse 31)
- Who will judge the world? (verse 31)
 - How do we know that Jesus is the judge? (verse 31)