

Getting to Know “The Unknown God”

Acts 17:22-31

Introduction:

- A. The altar “To The Unknown God” was a product of Athens’ diverse religious climate.
 - 1. Idolatry. (v. 16).
 - 2. Judaism. (v. 17).
 - 3. Philosophy. (v. 18).
 - a. *Epicureans* taught sovereignty of man - pleasure and freedom from pain highest goal. (Humanism).
 - b. *Stoics* made a god of reason and logic and held passion in disdain.
 - 4. Novelty lovers. (vv. 19-21).
- B. The altar “To The Unknown God” and Athenians’ willingness to hear anything new was opportunity to Paul.
- C. Paul proclaimed the fundamentals of “The Unknown God.”

Discussion:

II. “The Unknown God” Is A *Personal* God.

- A. Not an impersonal object or force, but a person. (vv. 28, 29; cf. Heb. 1:3).
 - 1. Unlike handmade gods of the pagans. (cf. Ps. 115:1-11).
 - 2. Unlike abstract “force” or “first cause” of philosophers.
- B. Has attributes of a person.
 - 1. Has mind. (1 Cor. 2:16).
 - 2. Thinks. (Isa. 55:8,9; Ps. 40:17)
 - 3. Loves - hates. (John 3:16; Prov. 6:16).
 - 4. Speaks. (Heb. 1:1).
 - 5. Hears. (1 Pet. 3:12).
 - 6. Cares (1 Pet. 5:6,7)
 - 7. Jealous (Ex. 20:5)

III. “The Unknown God” Is A *Powerful* God.

- A. His *creative* power. (vv. 24-26 cf. Gen. 1, 2)
- B. His *sovereign* power. (v. 24)
 - 1. Giving Him the right to be worshipped as He pleases. (v. 24, 25).
 - 2. Giving Him the right to command all men. (v. 30).
 - 3. Giving Him the right to judge the world. (v. 31).
- C. His *infinite* power.
 - 1. Unlimited by space. (vv. 24, 27; cf. 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 7:48,49).
 - a. Cannot escape His presence. (Ps. 139:7,8; Jonah 1:3,4).
 - b. Can escape His fellowship. (2 John 9-11).
 - 2. Unlimited by time. (Psa. 90:2; 2 Pet. 3:8).
- D. His *Self-sustaining* power. (v. 25).
 - 1. Does not need our worship - we need to worship.
 - 2. Does not need our service - we need to serve.
 - 3. Does not need our money - we need to give. (cf. Phil. 4:17).
- E. His *providential* power.
 - 1. By which we live. (v. 25, 28 cf. Matt. 6:24-33).
 - 2. By which we can overcome temptation and trial. (1 Cor. 10:12, 13).
- F. His *saving* power. (vv. 30-31; cf. Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
 - 1. Saved by death and resurrection of Christ. (Rom. 4:25).
 - 2. Saved by obeying His plan of salvation (cf. Luke 24:47; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Conclusion:

- A. Do you honor and obey God as your Lord?
- B. Do you commune with Him as a person?
- C. Are prepared for His Judgement Day?