

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"The Unknown God Revealed in Areopagus"

Acts 17:22-34

Paul Addresses the Religious

[22] Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; [23] for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: [24] "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. [25] Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. [26] And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, [27] so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; [28] for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' [29] Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. [30] Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, [31] because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." [32] And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." [33] So Paul departed from among them. [34] However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul is addressing the religious, yet God was "unknown" to them.
 - How could you be religious and still not know God?
 - If you were once religious, share how your view of God has changed since then.
2. Paul tells them about the true God.
 - List everything Paul reveals about God. How does Paul reveal Jesus?
 - Where does he begin and end?
3. How does Paul reason with them, using their own words, in vv. 28 and 29? (Titus 1:12)
4. Why would it be important to mention, "*And He has made from one blood every nation of men*"?
5. How did his audience respond? Have you heard the gospel many times before you responded? Why did it take more than once before you received Jesus as Savior?
6. What are things you learned from these passages that you can apply when you go out and share the true God with others?