

"THE _____ GOD"
Act 17:23-31 (1-31)

Living in the South, sometimes we think _____ knows about the God of the Bible and his Son, Jesus Christ. However, this is becoming more and more false. With the number of people moving in to our area from all around the world, there are fewer and fewer people who know the Truth. Having had our spiritual understanding enlightened by God and having become new creatures in Christ, we have a greater _____ to the people around us to make know the Truth of the Gospel.

This is what the Apostle Paul encountered when he had been sent away by fellow believers for his personal _____. (Vs 1-15) When he arrived at Athens, he was deeply _____ (Vs 16) at the amount of spiritual ignorance concerning the truth of the Gospel, even though it had become a place known for its intelligent people.

The first group of people Paul discussed the Gospel with were _____ Jews. (Vs 17) which aroused the interest of the philosophers (Vs 18-21)

Athens-Named after the goddess of wisdom, _____, who, according to mythology founded the city. It was the capital of Greece and was a large center for cultural and arts antiquity.

Epicureans-Epicureans argued against fear of death, since in their view death was merely the dissolution of the atoms entangled to make up the human, and against fear of the gods, who would enjoy their own blessedness without troublesome concern for human affairs. Free from these fears, they counseled, one should seek to live a peaceful life in which the body is free from pain and the mind peaceful and undisturbed. Consequently, one should choose a private life, pursuing this ideal in the pleasant company of friends. They believed the soul died with the body and thus life ended." [Harper's Bible Dictionary]

Stoicks-philosophers who believed that _____ was found by not wanting things to be any different than they presently are according to nature. In other words, people are to find out their place in the natural order of the universe and remain there and be happy. Many Stoicks set a high standard of personal conduct.

Mars Hill /Areopagus-a _____ hill just outside Athens where the philosophers would meet to discuss ideas

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

God has placed in the heart of every human being the need to _____ something or someone. Unless one knows Jesus as Savior, worship of the true God will never take place. Since the unsaved the world does not know the true and living God, they _____ their own god and religion. The job of every believer is to live in such a way that we can _____ the world to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Then when the unsaved become saved they too can worship the true God.

24a God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth God is first of all _____ since he is the Creator of the universe.

24b dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

God is _____ and man cannot build a church big enough to hold him, therefore he is with us, as believers, where ever we may go.

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

God is not _____ with man's methods of worship, nor his accomplishments, because man cannot give to God something he does not already own, including _____ itself.

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

He is the creator of all _____ of people everywhere, and all races of people are all _____ created and placed where God wishes them to be. All of humanity has its beginning with Adam and Eve, and there is no particular race of people more _____ than the next.

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

God's one intended goal for all races of people is that they _____ seek after and know God, and his son, Jesus Christ

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

God is the creator and sustainer of the very life that we have and _____ him we cannot and will not exist.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

God created Adam and Eve in the image of God, and all humanity descended from Adam and Eve therefore we are the _____ of the first humans God created. Since God created humans in his image, we should not think of God as anything made out of the things _____: gold, silver, stone, wood or anything else.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

In God's longsuffering he requires that sinful mankind repent of their sinfulness and return to him

Commandeth-to _____, or ordain

Repent-literally to change one's _____

All men everywhere-the command to repentance is to _____, not just a select few

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

There is coming a day for those who have _____ repented to face the judgment of God because they have rejected the Son of God whom the Father sent and raised from the dead

Appointed-to cause to stand _____, to make a stand

Judge-_____, bring into judgment

In righteousness ...ordained-Jesus Christ will be the _____ at the appointed time

Whereof he hath given assurance ... raised him from the dead-the _____ of this truth is in the resurrection of Christ

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Mocked-made _____ of, sneered at

Others said, "We will hear you again"-_____

33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Certain men clave unto him, and believed-there will always be a remnant, and that is what we are _____