

The God Who Made
Acts 17:24-31
9-20-2010

Paul was called to preach the gospel. (1Cor.1:17-18) The gospel has been referred to often as good news and rightly so. In Acts 17 Paul is brought before the rulers of the city state of Athens in a gathering place called the Areopagus because he was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. (17:18-20)

Since Paul is talking to a group of people who are not Israelite or Jew in their beliefs and understanding it was needful to have another platform from which to launch his arguments. A starting point to show them truth from. He found that point among the objects of their worship, in an inscription on an alter to a god, an unknown god. (Acts 17:22-23) Paul chose his starting point based upon where their heart and mind and actions met.

(We can learn something from Paul in how to start a conversation to turn peoples hearts towards truth. Look for where their heart, mind and actions meet).

Their actions demonstrated a desire to know and worship deity. They left room in their understanding for a god that exists that they did not yet know. From that window of insight Paul lead them to view the unknown God. There are several things that are worth knowing about God in what Paul preached that day in Athens before the men and woman of the Areopagus.

Although there are gods or creatures of immense power out here in the world there is only one who is creator and sustainer and ordainer. (verses 24-26, 28a) There is no other god who can compare in power and might and in purpose. No other god has purity of purpose. Only God

desires humanity to seek and find Him for their own benefit. All other gods desire to be found and worshiped for their own desire to be worshiped and care nothing for the needs of humanity.

As is also often times true, when we learn something about God we also learn something about humanity. Why? Because we are the only thing created in his likeness and our lives are sustained in His existence. (verses 27-28) Another thing of interest is the singularity of human origins. We all come from one human ancestor, one blood. Even though God in His wisdom and purpose separated humanity into regions and nations and languages and races we all come from that singular source. That one blood was Adam, the created of God. (verses 25-27) Evolution and the origin of the species is ignorant of the truth concerning God and Man and Creation.

The Creator is also Lord and God and therefore is within His rights to call humanity to repent of their ignorance and is also within His rights to set a date and time when He judges the world. The time and date are set and so also is the position of judge already been filled and His name is Jesus. (Verses 30-31) The proof of this truth is in the fact of Jesus' resurrection; a clear demonstration of God's power and purpose.

The Gospel is still true, it is still good news, and there is yet to come this resurrected judge named Jesus. The benefit that God desires for humanity is for everyone to believe the truth, repent and be baptized and so escape the judgment once due them. Jesus will judge justly and all humanity is deserving of death. The good news is through Jesus we do not get what we deserve but rather we receive what we are in need of – forgiveness and mercy and life. (Mk.16:15-16; Acts 5:42; 8:12)

