



John 18:38, "Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all."

INTRODUCTION: The apostle Paul came to Athens just for the purpose of waiting for Timothy as they were preaching the gospel. But as Paul came to Athens, he saw a city that was wholly given over to idolatry. It was at Mars Hill that people could openly discuss their religious beliefs and philosophies. This was, perhaps, the only place on earth where there was every known god in existence.

I. THE RELIANCE OF MEN

A. THE RELIANCE UPON SELF (ACTS 17:18)

The Stoics were pantheistic. They believed that there were many gods.

The second group was called the Epicureans. Epicurus was a philosopher who believed in finding happiness in the moment. He believed that pleasure was to be worshipped and sought after by all men. They also believed that the soul dies with the body.

Psalm 14:12, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."

"Faith is belief without, or in spite of, reason" – George Smith, Atheist

"Faith is a rational response to the evidence of God's self-revelation in nature, human history, the scriptures and His resurrected Son." – W. Bingham Hunter, Christian Educator

Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

The phrase "without God" is from the Greek word *atheos* which is where we get the word *Atheism* from.

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

B. THE RELIANCE UPON SUPERSTITION (ACTS 17:19, 22-23)

I Timothy 6:20-21, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen."

John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD (ACTS 17:24)

A. GOD IS REVEALED AS CREATOR (ACTS 17:24)

Colossians 1:16-17, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

B. GOD IS REVEALED AS LORD (ACTS 17:24-27)

Job 12:10, "In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind."

He is Lord to all who will seek Him (17:26-27). God has left all the evidence of His existence in nature so that anyone can know to seek Him and those that do, He always sends a messenger to tell them about Him.

C. GOD IS REVEALED AS THE COMING JUDGE (ACTS 17:28-31)

John 14:6, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Matthew 25:31-33 & 41, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

John 5:22-24, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

III. THE REDEMPTION OF FAITH (ACTS 17:32-34)

A. THERE WERE THE REJECTORS (ACTS 17:32)

B. THERE WERE THE RUMINATORS (ACTS 17:32)

C. THERE WERE THE REDEEMED (ACTS 17:34)

I Peter 1:18-19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"