

Acts 17:16-34 - Part 3

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-26-17

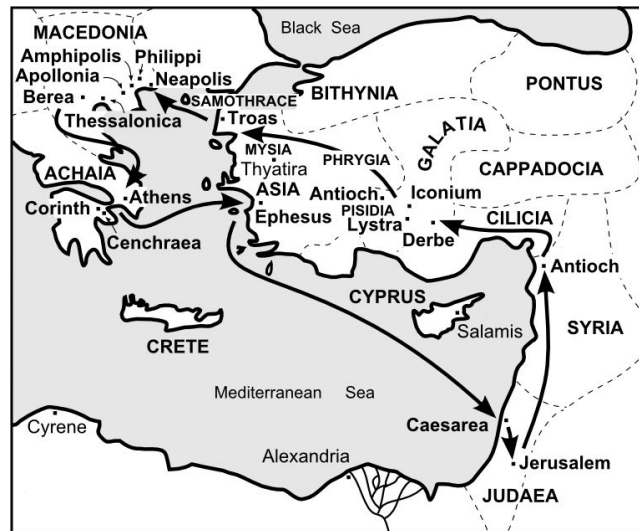
IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)**
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

What Paul Said (vv. 22-34)

- V. 22 - Began with _____
 - **Why?**

- V. 23a - The anonymous altar = his _____ of _____
 - Began with their own admission of _____
 - v. 23b - Bold claim to enlighten
 - Imagine a Jew teaching the Athenians! (cf. I Cor. 1:18-31)
 - Special revelation ALWAYS _____
general revelation



- Proclaimed the living and true God in 5 ways
 - God is the _____ of the universe (v. 24)
 - Defies both Epicurean and Stoic worldviews
 - Continuity vs. discontinuity
 - Gen. 1:1 - HUGE worldview statement
 - God is the _____ of life (v. 25)
 - Not dependent upon creation, creation is dependent upon him
 - Paganism = a ridiculous _____ of roles
 - God is _____ of all the nations (vv. 26-27)
 - Every nation is under his ultimate, permissive control
 - V. 27 = his ultimate purposes
 - "Groping for him" = a blind man groping and fumbling around
 - Cf. Rom. 1:20-23
 - "He is not far from each one of us", it is we who are far from him.

- He is the _____ of human beings (vv. 28-29)
 - Quotations
 - “in Him we live and move and exist” - Epimenides (6th C.)
 - “for we also are His children” - Aratus (Stoic, 3rd C.)
 - Paul was _____ of the culture
 - God is “father” of all human beings with regard to his relationship as Creator
 - God is only the Father of those who are in Christ in terms of redemption
 - Special revelation controls and contextualizes whatever “truth” of general revelation can be found in the world’s religious and philosophical systems.
 - Idolatry localizes, confines, domesticates, and tames God in order to bring him under our _____.

- God is the _____ of the world (vv. 30-31)
 - Begins and ends with _____ with the authority and boldness of an apostle.
 - Both ignorant AND _____.
 - Acts 14:17 - “He did not leave Himself without witness”
 - Overlooked such ignorance in the past = his forbearing mercy
 - Now calls all people to repent
 - God’s judgement (v. 31):
 - _____ - no one will escape it
 - _____ - God will judge all people rightly
 - _____ - the day is set (though not disclosed) and the judge has been revealed.
 - Resurrection = God’s vindication of his Son as judge and lord
 - All nations were created from the first man (Adam), all nations will be judged by the last Adam

- The response
 - V. 32 - some sneered (probably the Epicureans) and some wanted to hear more about it later (probably the Stoics)
 - V. 33 - the hearing came to an abrupt conclusion
 - V. 34 - “some men joined him and believed”
 - Dionysius the Areopagite - known from history as Athens’ first Christian bishop and martyr

How Paul Challenges Us

- We lack the depth and power of Paul’s motivation
- Divine jealousy has not stirred with us
- He saw > felt > spoke → it began with his eyes
 - Verbs in vv. 16, 22, 23 do not mean “looked at,” but “observed” or “considered”