

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Mars Hill"
Acts 17:16-34
Study-32

Acts 17:19 Areopagus: The Latin form of the Greek word rendered "*Mars' Hill.*"

Acts 17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus - We Christians have been taken and brought "To Mars Hill" or The New Term "Post-Modern World" - "*belief that many, if not all, apparent realities are only social constructs.*"

Pluralistic - means having or accepting many different groups, ideas, beliefs, or types of people in one place.

Listen To This Up-To-Date Passage That Sounds Like 2026: Acts 17:18

Thought Of Our Passage: Presenting The Gospel To Those Without Scripture Means That We Must Start With The God Of Creation.

- 1. Verses 16-21 Paul's Heart**
- 2. Verses 22-31 Paul's Message**
- 3. Verses 32-34 Paul's Converts**

1. Verses 16-21 Paul's Heart:

Acts 17:16 Now – Context: Paul is on his second missionary tour. The team consists of **Paul, Silas, Timothy,** and sometimes **Luke.** They have come to Europe.

1st city in Europe was **Philippi** – **2nd city Thessalonica** - which led to a riot;

3rd city Berea – Many believed and were converted. People from Thessalonica came some 45 miles away and drove Paul out of **Berea.**

Acts 17:13-15

Athens Pictures: Paul was waiting for them at Athens, 300 miles south of Berea.

Athens – The Intellectual Center of Their World: Population 10,000 in Paul's day. The Greek City of Athens is historically attributed as the first civilization to establish a system of Democracy. (Athens, a city-state governed by elected officials who were responsible to the citizens).

Military Victories brought it to the height of world power. Victory over the Persians. The Battle of Marathon: the Greeks, with an army of 100,000, defeated the Persian army of 1,000,000.

The Age of Literature – the classical Greek plays were written during this time.

The Age of Philosophy - Headquarters of **Aristotle, Plato, Socrates**; it was the intellectual capital of the world.

The Age of Art – The Greeks developed the classical forms of human sculpture. Imitated by all of Europe, down to **Michelangelo**.

The Golden Age of Greek history passed away rapidly – The Greeks of Athens got into a disastrous war with Sparta, dragged on for 27 years (431 to 404 BC). It destroyed Greek power and much of the civilization. Athens never recovered.

his spirit was being provoked within him - *"angry about the lie."*
Athenians exhibited a religious hunger for God, but they did not get Him!

as he was observing – our English word *"Theater,"* *"stared hard and long,"* **the city full of idols**. Over 30,000 statues of various gods.

Zeus – the god of Savagery. (Get Even)

Aphrodite – The god of Immorality. (god of immorality)

Bacchus – The god of Alcohol.

Acts 17:17 Paul Taught In The Synagogue - reasoning - *"to say thoroughly, discuss."*

The goal of apologetic preaching is not to win an argument but to win souls!

The Scriptures were the basis for discussion:

Not intellectual pride, but spiritual concern. Justification of sinners, not justification of self.

Paul Taught in the Marketplace - and in the market (Agora)

We Should Expect Spiritual Confusion: Acts 17:18 And also some of the Epicurean – Practical Atheists (Sensualists and lovers of pleasure; enjoy life, things happen by chance; there is no judgment or afterlife).

Stoic philosophers – Pantheists: God was everything. (Endure life, Fatalists) *"Life is filled with both good and bad; you can't avoid the bad, so "grin and bear it."*

idle babbler *"a seed-picker"* bird picking through scraps.

1 Corinthians 1:21

Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"- because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Acts 17:19 Areopagus Pictures: Areopagus – "Mars' Hill"; it was at an elevation of 337 feet. Athenian court that met at the Hill of Ares west of the Acropolis.

What they discussed was Religion and Education.

Acts 17:20-22 Luke Reports, The Athenians Were The Babblers: telling or hearing something new.

2. Verses 22-31 Paul's Message:

Verses 22-23 The Introduction: Acts 17:22 "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. *"You are very superstitious in all respects."*

Acts 17:23 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' The Athenians were supposed to know everything, but they did not know God!

The reason people don't know God is because they don't want to. Romans 1:18-32

Verses 24-26 God Is The Creator: (Deals With The Past) Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, He starts with the God of creation.

Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; He is Omnipresent. Psalm 19: Heavens declare His Glory!

Acts 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, (Omnipotent) He is sovereign.

God is the life-giver – the Epicurean God was absent; the Stoic's God was everything.

Colossians 1:16-17

Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, This is proof that Adam and Eve were not a fairy tale but were real.

Man is responsible to God; God is the God of creation!

Verses 27-30 God As Redeemer: (Present) Acts 17:27 Man is responsible to God, God is the God of creation!

Man is responsible to God, Because of sin and the need of redemption from sin. If perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, "reaching out for, or feeling after" Romans 1:20

though He is not far from each one of us; Romans 10:8

Acts 17:28-29 not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone,

Acts 17:30 God has Been Patient, Overlooking Ignorance For A Time: "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance

Paul is confronting their ignorance of God revealed in nature.

God's Universal Command of Repentance: God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, Repent – (*From Idolatry*)

Verse 31 God As Judge: (Future) Acts 17:31 God Has Appointed A Final Day Of Reckoning, With Jesus The Judge:

3. Verses 32-34 Paul's Converts:

Acts 17:32 Rejecters: (Don't Want Truth) some began to sneer,
The Greeks believed that Man had a spirit and body. The body was evil.

Postpone: but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

Acts 17:33-34 But some men joined him and believed; at least two joined and believed.

among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite - leading philosopher converted. - and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Application:

- 1.** Ministry To Others Should Not Be Rooted In Intellectual Pride, But Spiritual Concern.
- 2.** The Goal Of Ministry Is The Justification Of Sinners, Not Justification Of Self.
- 3.** To Understand The Universe, We Do Not Begin With The Universe And Reason Back To God; We Begin With God And Reason Out To The Universe.
- 4.** God's Universal Command Is To Repent.
- 5.** God Has Appointed A Final Day Of Reckoning, With Jesus The Judge