

**Series "The Acts Of God"**  
**"Life On Mars"**  
**Acts 17:16-34**  
**Study-32**

**Acts 17:16-23**

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

"To Mars Hill" or The New Term "Post-Modern World" – "belief that many, if not all, apparent realities are only social constructs, such as male versus female, straight versus gay, white versus black, and imperial versus colonial. Realities are plural and relative, and dependent on who the interested parties are and what their interests consist in."

**Acts 17:18**

**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

Acts 17:13-15

Athens – The Intellectual Center of Their World: The Greek City of Athens is attributed historically as being the first civilization to set up the system of Democracy.

The period that Paul was in Athens was in "The late afternoon of her glory."

Military Victories –

The Age of Literature –

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

The Age of Art –

"as he was beholding" – our English word "Theater"

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! Apologetics separated from evangelism is unknown in the New Testament, and it is clearly foreign to the model offered by Paul.

Paul Taught In the Market Place –

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 after life); “The chief goal in life is to attain the maximum amount of pleasure and the minimum amount of pain.” The god’s don’t help; the god’s would never intervene.

“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.” I am still in charge of myself, therefore I am going to stand tall, stick out my chin, and take it – whatever comes. Accept nature as it is, and find your place in it; No personal deity.

“idle babbler” – “a seed-picker”; The idea of a bird picking through scraps; A bird picking through the gutter.

1 Cor 1:21

1 Cor 1:18-25

Acts 17:19-21

## **2. Verses 22-31 – Paul’s Message:**

Verses 22-23 – The Introduction:

Verses 24-26 – God Is The Creator: (Deals With The Past) Acts 17:24

In order 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: (In the Beginning God) No solution without God!

Acts 17:25

Col 1:16-17

Acts 17:26

Man is responsible to God, first upon the basis of creation!

Verses 27-30 – God As Redeemer: (Present) Acts 17:27

Man is responsible to God, because of sin and the need of redemption – “if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him,”; “reaching out for, or feeling after”

Romans 10:8

Acts 17:28-30

God has Been Patient, Overlooking Ignorance For A Time: “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance”

God’s Universal Command of Repentance: “God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,”

Repent – (From Idolatry) It is a change of mind, a change of heart. It is a change in how we see ourselves and see God, and what God says about us.

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,”

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

Acts 17:33-34

**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. In order 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