

The Undisciplined World of Thought



Acts 17:18-32

The University of Athens

- We are all philosophers!!
- Opinions on Axiology
 - Study of what is worthwhile or valuable
 - Study of what men do desire as well as what they ought to desire
- Opinions on Ethics, Beauty and Religion
 - Right and Wrong
 - Aesthetics
 - Philosophy of Religion – God ,evil and afterlife
- Oh Yeah. We are philosophers – talk talk talk.

Athenian Philosophers

- **Epicureans:**
 - Everything happens by chance
 - Death ends it all
 - Gods exist but they don't care
 - Pleasure is the chief end of man
- **Stoics:**
 - Believe every thing is God; a spark of the fiery Spirit
 - Everything is fated by God; so don't care about what happens in your life. Be stoic.
 - Dull spark reunites us with God upon death

Check Out the Unknown God

God is not Made – He is the Maker

- Tendency to worship “Made in China”
- Tendency to worship man discovered knowledge
- The God we worship is that to which we give all our time, thought and energy...even our life.

God Guides History – He is not Shaped by History

- Everything does not happen by pure chance
- All that happens is not God’s intentional will BUT
- God’s ultimate will is not subject to the thoughts of men and the plans of nations.

More About This Unknown God

God Made Us to Instinctively Long for God

- We have God's DNA and long to reconnect with our unknown loved one.
- We are like children who learn we have family whom we do not know.

God Made the Way Open and Known thru Christ

- The day of excuse is past; the way the truth the life has come and will live within our hearts.
- Idols out. Christ in. Controlled, manipulated power out. Yielded will, let God's will be done on earth in me as it is in heaven, power in!

The Unknown God IS God

- We are not in a procession going to die.
- We are not dull sparks waiting to die to come to life.
- We are on a journey to the judgment seat where Jesus is Judge.

God's Proof of This is Resurrection of Christ

- He is not unknown.
- He lived, breathed, died and resurrected among us.

Results

- **Some sneered; Some said we need to hear more later; a few believed...**
- **It is hard to live counter to our culture**
- **It is hard to refuse to compromise our standards**
- **It is hard to live different from our friends**
- **It is hard to say no when friends invite us to participate in questionable acts**
- **It is hard to stand alone**
- **It is hard to be identified with a minority position**

If We Don't the Culture will *Kill Us Softly*.

- It is hard to resist the temptation to conform
- It is hard to control our desires and say no to inappropriate expressions of our natural appetites.
- It is hard to be called names by those who don't have the courage to join us.
- It is hard to take the name of Christ and identify with His cause.

And The Way-The Truth-The Life...
Ends in Us.