

Paul Preached in Europe

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 17:16-34

MAIN POINT: Paul taught the people in Athens that the one true God sent Jesus to be the Savior.

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.

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Paul had been traveling from place to place, sharing the gospel. When Paul got to Athens, he was upset by what he saw. The people there did not worship the one true God. Instead, they worshiped many idols. Paul talked with the people who lived in Athens and told them the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

The men asked Paul to explain what he was talking about. So Paul met with them and said, "Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious. I saw in your city an altar that said: 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' You worship a god that you do not know. This is the God I want to tell you about."

So Paul told the people about the one true God. He explained that God made everything, and that He is bigger than man-made temples. God is not like the idols in Athens. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. God does not need anything, and He is not far away. Paul also said that God wants everyone in the world to repent, to turn away from their sin and turn to Him. God made all people, and they should all look to Him.

Paul said, "One day, God is going to judge the world in a way that is right. He has chosen Jesus to do this, and He proved this by raising Jesus from the dead!"

When the people heard about Jesus being raised from the dead, some of them laughed. But some of them wanted to hear more later. So Paul went away from their meeting. However, some people joined Paul, and they believed in Jesus.

Christ Connection: The men of Athens worshiped a false god whom they did not know. Paul explained to the men God's plan of salvation. He said that God is not like the Greek idols. Only God deserves our worship! Paul talked about Jesus and the resurrection. All people can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God.