

Round the World in 80 days

Studies in Acts 17-20

Athens – God can be Known

Acts 17.16-34

1. A Deeply Distressing City, vs16-23

a) *Full of idols, v16*

man-made substitutes

for the One True God

provoking Paul, and God, to anger

Ps 106.28-29

***God is jealous of man-made substitutes;
he alone is worthy of our worship Ex 20.4-5***

Are we jealous for Jesus?

1. A Deeply Distressing City, vs16-23

a) *Full of idols, v16*

b) *Full of pleasure seekers, v18*

Epicureans: happiness is our goal

c) *Full of proud people, v18*

Stoics: aim for self-sufficiency

d) *Full of confused people, vs17-18*

What's he trying to say?

Jesus and Resurrection, god and goddess?

1 Cor 2.14; 2 Cor 4.4

1. A Deeply Distressing City, vs16-23

- a) *Full of idols, v16*
- b) *Full of pleasure seekers, v18*
- c) *Full of proud people, v18*
- d) *Full of confused people, vs17-18*
- e) *Full of superficial people, vs19-21*
chasing after novelties, not truth
- f) *Full of ignorant people, v30*
despite their great claims to learning

2. The Truth about God, vs24-28

- *It doesn't matter what we think God is like
what's he really like?*
- *We can only know about God with certainty
if he chooses to reveal himself to us
he has, through creation **Rom 1.20**
through humanity **Gen 1.27**
through Scriptures **2 Pet 1.21**
through Jesus
John 1.1,14,18; 14.9*

2. The Truth about God, vs24-28

- a) The Creator and Controller of all that exists
too big for any man-made box! v24
- b) The Giver and Sustainer of all life
not dependent on us! v25
- c) The Director of all Human History
not a world of chance! v26
- d) The Goal of all Human Seeking
near, but our sin gets in the way vs27-28
God has provided his Son as a Bridge
1 Peter 3.18; John 14.6

3. What God expects of us, vs29-31

- ***not lifeless representations v29***
only Christ can image God Col 1.15
- ***but genuine repentance vs30-31***
a decisive turning from our man-made gods
to the One True Living God

a command, not a suggestion
for everyone, not just for some
for the whole globe, not selected locations
now, not some time later

3. What God expects of us, vs29-31

- *genuine repentance vs30-31*

*God's Judgement Day has been set,
his Judge has been appointed*

Christ's resurrection proves it

John 5.22-23

Christ's death and resurrection can save us

Rom 4.25

4. Humanity's Reaction to the Gospel, vs 32-34

- *Some sneer, v32*
- *Some want another hearing, v32*
- *A few become believers, v34*