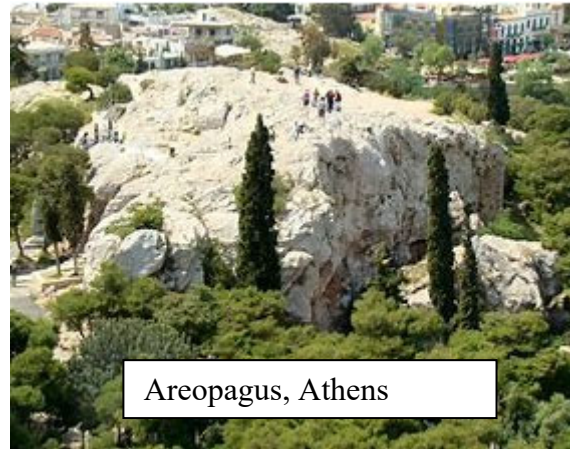


Paul's Second Missionary Journey



The Lesson & Life Application

The Church: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part IV) **Acts 17: 16 – 34**

- Radical Paul encounters Radical Idolatry (v 16 – 17)
- Certain Philosophers (v 18 – 21)
- Paul Preached Jesus at Areopagus (v 22 – 23)
- God is the Purposeful Creator (v 24 – 27)
- Idolatry Condemned (v 28 – 29)
- Ignorance is No Longer Acceptable (v 30 – 31)
- Response to Paul's Preaching (v 32 – 34)

Wed., May 27 – **Continued**
The Church

The Acts of the Apostles



FUBC Bible Study

Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 7:00 pm

**The Church: Paul's Second
Missionary Journey (Part IV)**

Acts 17: 16 – 34

Rev. Roberta Young-Jackson
Facilitator

The Text: Acts 17: 16 – 34

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. ¹⁷ Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. ¹⁸ Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? ²⁰ For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. ²¹ (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.) ²² Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. ²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. ²⁴ God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; ²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; ²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: ²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. ²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. ³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. ³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. ³³ So Paul departed from among them. ³⁴ Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The Church: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part IV)

Acts 17: 16 – 34

THE LESSON & THE LIFE APPLICATION

Background

The Church: After Christ's ascension, the believers returned to Jerusalem, waited for *the promise*, prayed and conducted business. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the house, baptized and filled the believers with the Holy Spirit, and miraculously enabled each of them to understand what each other were saying. Peter preached and 3000 souls were saved. The believers continued in communion meeting each other's needs. Signs and wonders occurred, including the healing of a lame man at the temple gate called Beautiful. Peter preached by the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, in the name of **Jesus** – and 5000 men believed. The Sanhedrin Council questioned their power and commanded them not to speak or preach in the name of Jesus but Peter & John did not comply; yet told the believers all that transpired, prayed a powerful prayer, and God filled them all with the Holy Spirit. Some believers voluntarily contributed to the community of goods (Barnabas), and some allowed Satan to fill their hearts to lie (Ananias & Sapphira). The church continued to grow, the apostles continue to Preach Jesus and the Sanhedrin was enraged because of it. They wanted to kill the Apostles but was advised [by Gamaliel] against it. The believers multiplied, so business elders were chosen to attend to the church benevolence; while the Apostles focused on prayer and the ministry of the word. Stephen, a business elder, did great wonders and miracles and was falsely accused of blasphemy. The Sanhedrin put Steven on trial, and enraged by his defense, incited Stephen's stoning. Stephen viewing a glimpse of the glory of God, knelt and prayed for his murderers' forgiveness. Saul approved of Stephen's stoning, the believers scattered to escape persecution: spreading the gospel through Judea and Samaria. Philip preached revivals in Samaria and many believed and were healed from their infirmities. Simon the Sorcerer believed. Peter & John came to Samaria, prayed and laid hands on the new believers and they received the Holy Ghost. Philip went to Gaza, preached Jesus and baptized an Ethiopian eunuch. Saul had an enlightening encounter with Jesus on his way to Damascus – was set "Straight" by a disciple named Ananias, baptized, and started Preaching Jesus! Paul escaped two attempts on his life. Peter healed a paralyzed man and resurrected Tabitha (a disciple) from the dead, many turned to the Lord. Peter & Cornelius (a Roman soldier) received a vision from God, and both were obedient to God's instructions: initiating the ministry of Christ Jesus to extend to all of God's people. Paul & Barnabas 'preach Jesus' to the Jews & the Gentile on Paul's First Missionary Journey. The first General Council of Christians was held; and confirmed that Gentiles should not be burden with the law. Paul embarks on his second missionary journey without Barnabas but with Silas.