

# “AREOPAGUS PHILOSOPHERS VS. A SEED PICKER”

*(Acts 17:16-34)*

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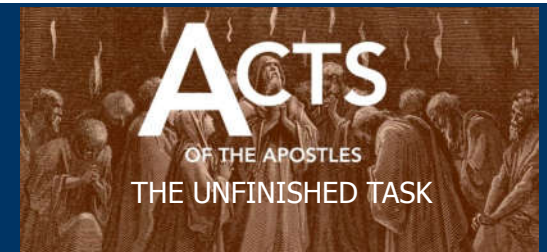
*Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 39*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

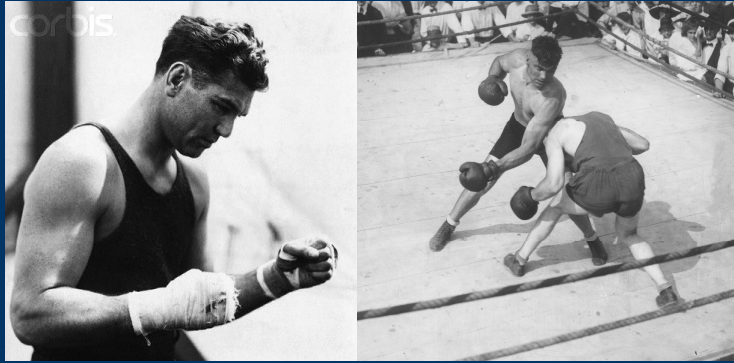
*Date: April 19, 2020*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*

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# INTRODUCTION:



How old was Jack Dempsey when he won the heavyweight Boxing crown?



When did Paderewski write his Minuet in G?



What is the name of the Aztec god of the dead?

# INTRODUCTION:



## Quiz Kids

*The Radio Program  
with the Smartest Children  
in America, 1940-1953*

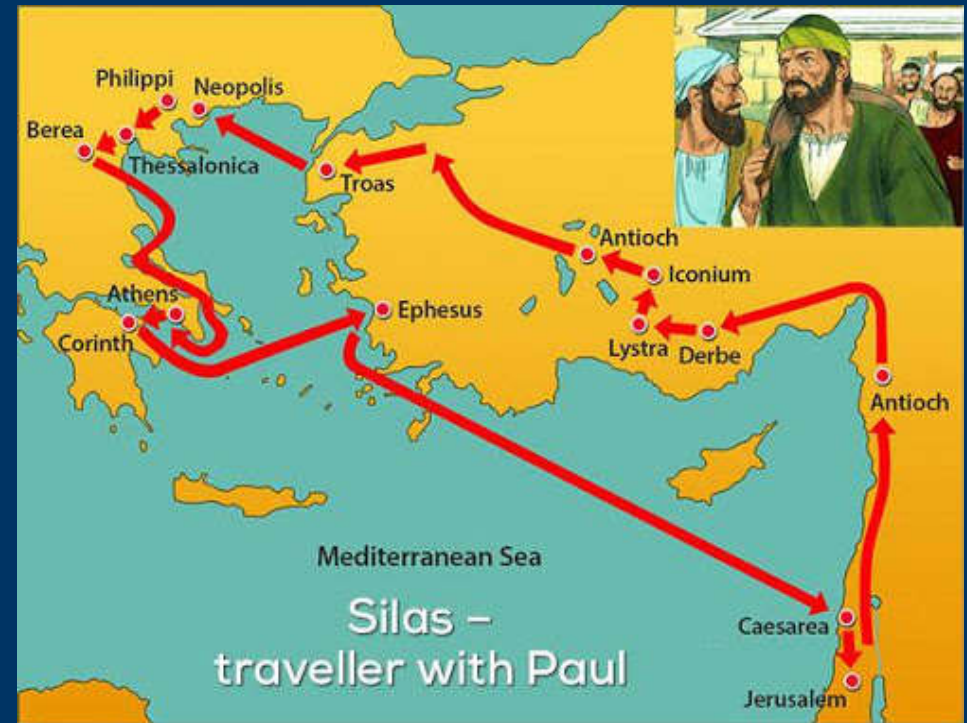
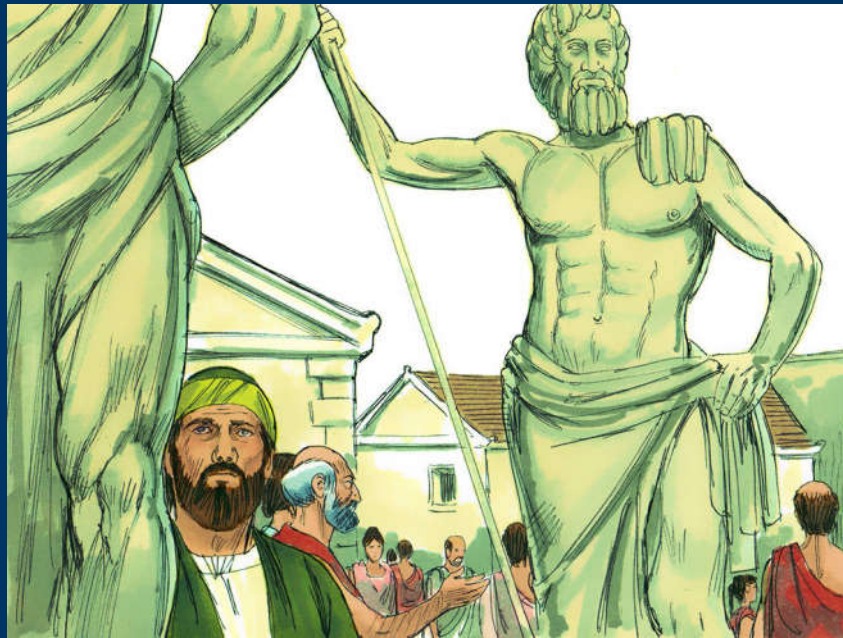


Martin A. Gardner



# I. ATHENS: A CITY OF EXTREMES

**Acts 17:16** *While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.*



# I. ATHENS: A CITY OF EXTREMES

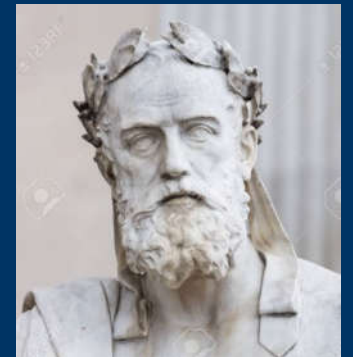


Gaius Petronius, he sarcastically remarks that in Athens it was easier to find a god than a man.



Pausanias, states that Athens had more images than, all Greece put together.

Xenophon, calls Athens "one great altar, one great offering to the gods."



## II. PAUL: A MAN OF COURAGE

### *A) In the Synagogue*

**Acts 17:17a** *So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks,...*



## II. PAUL: A MAN OF COURAGE

### *B) At the Marketplace*

**Acts 17:1b** "...every day with those who happened to be present".



## II. PAUL: A MAN OF COURAGE

### *B) At the Marketplace*

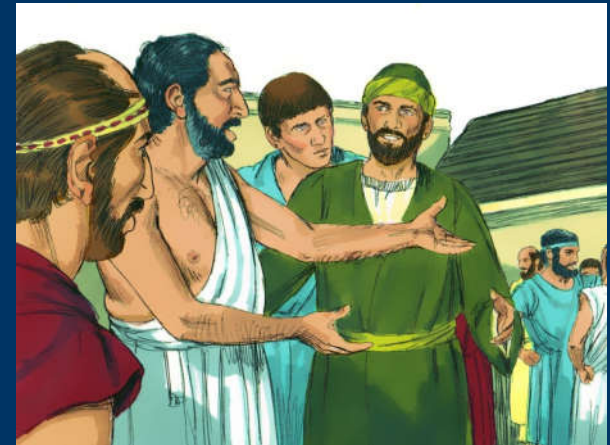
**Acts 17:18** *A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "**What is this babbler trying to say?**" Others remarked, "**He seems to be advocating foreign gods.**" They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.*



## II. PAUL: A MAN OF COURAGE

### *C) On the Areopagus*

**Acts 17:19b** *"May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*



### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *A) He Started Where They Were*

*Acts 17:22b "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23a</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD."*

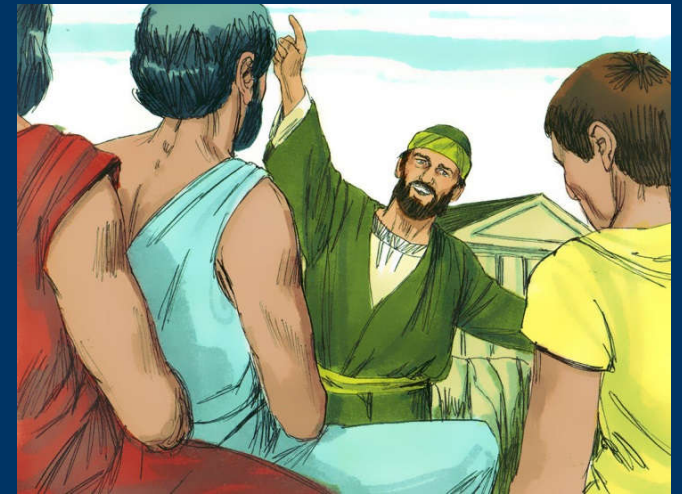


### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *B) He Used the Familiar to Introduce the Unfamiliar*

*Acts 17:23b "So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship — and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.*

*24a "The God who made the world and everything in it."*

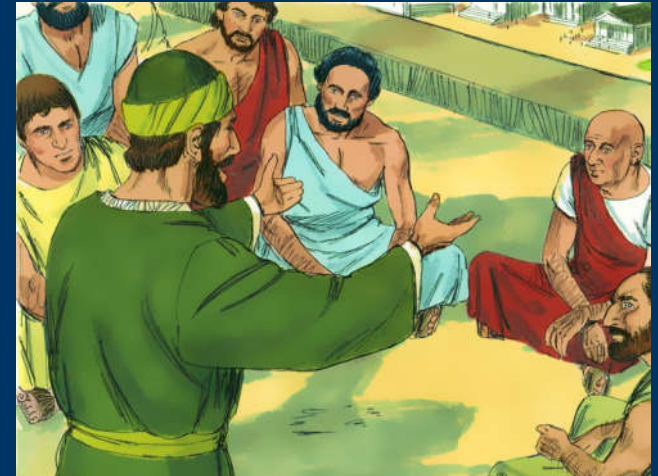


### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *C) He Developed His Theme Forcefully and Clearly*

**Acts 17:24b** *"The Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.*

**1) *Being the Creator, God cannot be contained.***

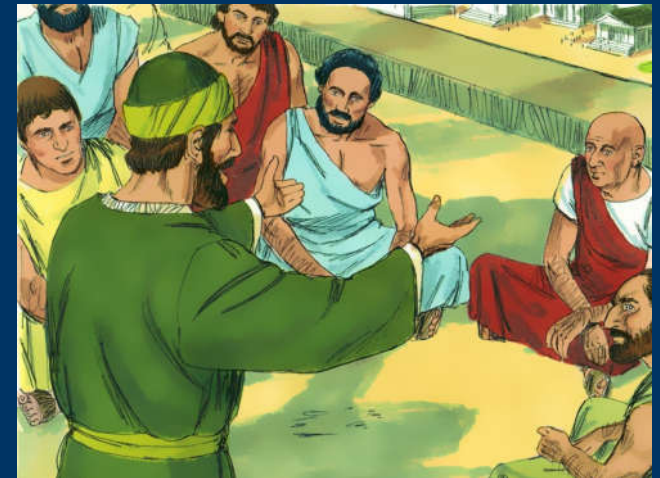


### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *C) He Developed His Theme Forcefully and Clearly*

**Acts 17:25** *And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.*

**2) Being the originator,  
He has no needs.**



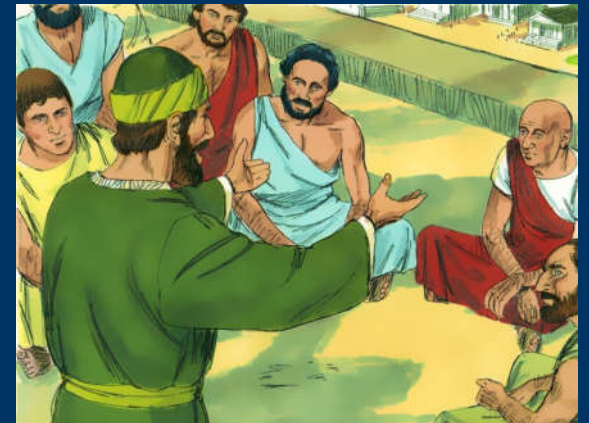
### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *C) He Developed His Theme Forcefully and Clearly*

**Acts 17:26** *From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.*

**27** *God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*

**3) Being intelligent, He has a definite plan.**

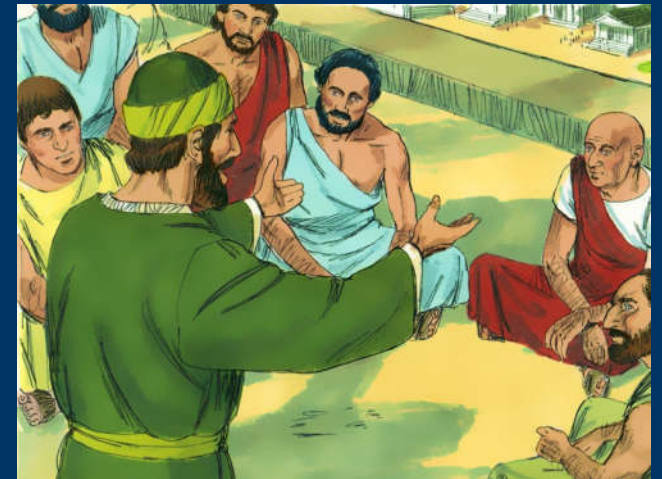


### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

*C) He Developed His Theme Forcefully and Clearly*

**Acts 17:28a** *'For in him we live and move and have our being.'*"

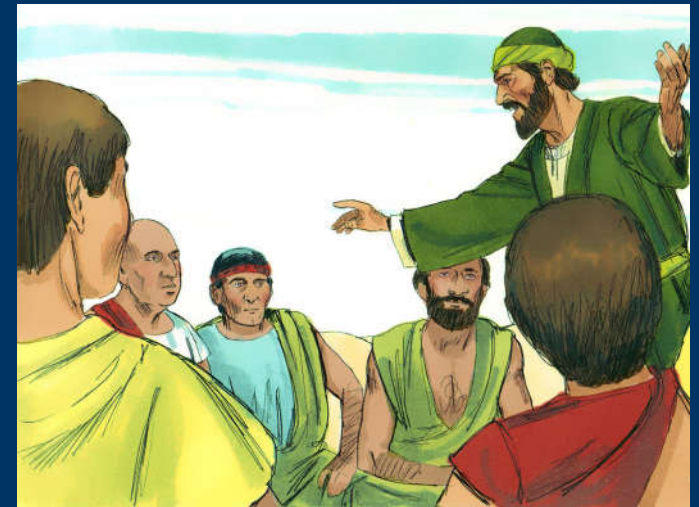
**4) Being the sustainer,  
He is not dependent .**



### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *D) He Kept Their Attention with Relevant Illustrations*

**Acts 17:28b** *"As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'"*



### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *E) He Applied the Message, Personally*

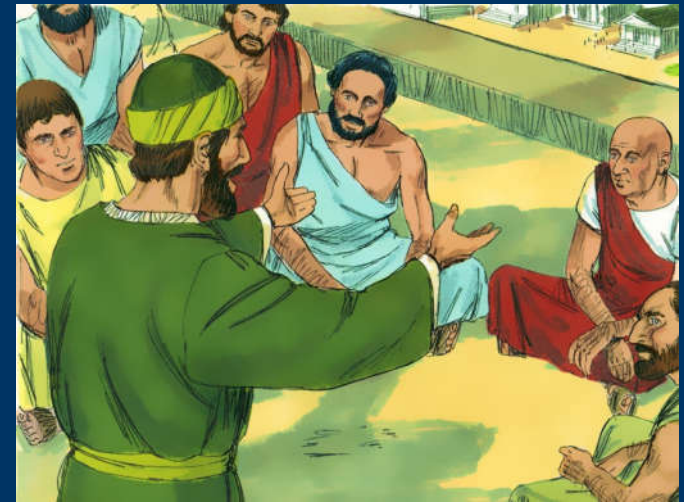
**Acts 17:29** *"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone — an image made by human design and skill. **30***  
*In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*



### III. ADDRESS: A MESSAGE OF IMPACT

#### *E) He Applied the Message, Personally*

**Acts 17:31** *For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."*



## CONCLUSION:



If you desire to live life to the fullest like Paul, here is a little pre-storm advice based on Paul's journey.

**Acts 17:32** *When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered,*

**A. *Some of them openly rejected.***



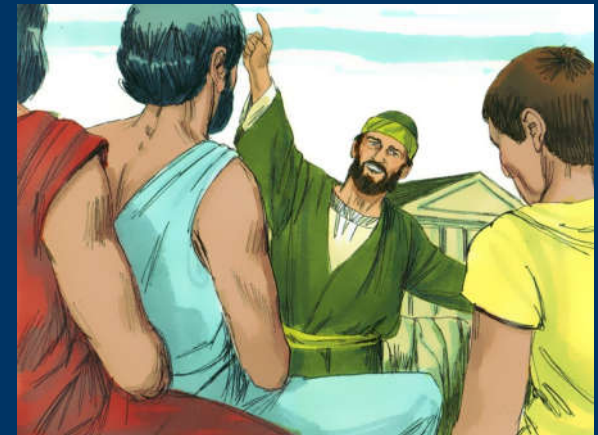
## CONCLUSION:



If you desire to live life to the fullest like Paul, here is a little pre-storm advice based on Paul's journey.

**Acts 17:32b** ...but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." **33** At that, Paul left the Council.

**B. Some put off the decision.**



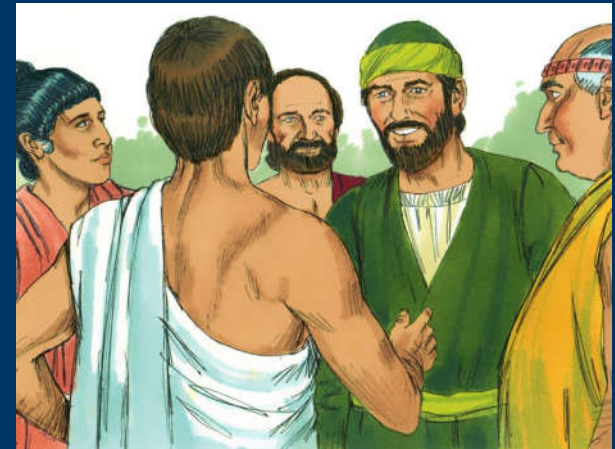
## CONCLUSION:



If you desire to live life to the fullest like Paul, here is a little pre-storm advice based on Paul's journey.

**Acts 17:34** *Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.*

**C. Some others believed.**





## CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Smart people often think that they knew all and don't need God. Does this statement qualify itself?*
- 2. What was the city of Athens like in Paul's day? What was the general scenario like in Athens?*
- 3. How did Paul start his ministry in Athens? What are some places he chose to preach the gospel?*
- 4. How did Paul present the message to engage with the Athenians? How does the message impact them?*



*Scripture References:*

*Acts 17:16 -34*

*Acts: Sermon # 39*