



Foolish Wisdom





Acts 1:8 – Power Principle

The Holy Spirit will give
you the ability to tell what
you have experienced –
every where you go - with
miraculous results!!!!



The Antioch Declaration Acts 13

- ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that **through [p]Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,**
- ³⁹ and [q]through Him everyone who believes is [r]**freed [s]from all things, from which you could not be [t]freed [u]through the Law of Moses.**
- **Continue in the Grace of God (43)**
- **Preached to Jewish audiences**

**Apostle Paul's
Second Missionary Journey
49 - 52 A.D.**



Acts 17 - Recent Events Recap

- 5 Thessalonica , **“These men who have upset [g]the world (i.e., turned it upside down) have come here also;** 7 [h]and Jason has welcomed them, and **they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”**
- Berea - **many of them believed**, [m]along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.
- **Jews of Thessalonica** found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, **agitating and stirring up the crowds.**
14 Then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there.
15 Now those who escorted Paul brought him **as far as Athens**



“Energizer” Evangelist

- **16** Now while Paul was waiting for them at **Athens**, his spirit was being **provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.** **17** So he was reasoning in the **synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles***, and in the **market place** every day with those who happened to be present.
- **18** And also some of the **Epicurean** and **Stoic** philosophers were **[n]**conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this **[o]**idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,”—because he was preaching **Jesus and the resurrection.**



Girl Friend, Spill It

- ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him [p]to the [q]Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is [r]which you are proclaiming? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange (new/unfamiliar) things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.
- ” ²¹ (**Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.**)



Sermon on Mars Hill

- 22 So Paul **stood in the midst of the** [s] **Areopagus** and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that **you are very religious in all respects.** 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘**TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**’ [Funny story about that]
- **Therefore what you worship in *ignorance*, this I proclaim to you.** [*there is only ONE God*]²⁴ The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ **nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;** [*not a demi-urge*]



Sermon on Mars Hill cont

- ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, **if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and [t]exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'**



Sermon on Mars Hill cont

- **29 Being then the children of God**, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. **30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,**
- **31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge [u]the world in righteousness [v]through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men [w]by raising Him from the dead.**"



Sermon on Mars Hill cont

- ³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some *began* to sneer,
- but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” (We’ll think about it)
- ³³ So Paul went out of their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.



Foolish Wisdom

- For the Athenians, religion was a game for entertainment or debate, because for them God(s) was only a benign force at best, and certainly not engaged in any personal way with this world. Life was all intellect and pleasure.
- They laughed at “babblers” like Paul who proclaimed God as Personal, Sovereign, Loving, and Just. It was just inconceivable
- After 600 years of being the smartest guys in the room, their hearts were 2 sizes too small, and their brains were too full of worldly opinions, to be sensitive to, interested in the voice of God



So, What Happened in Athens?

- **Nothing.** As far as we know, Paul never went back and the church didn't start to thrive there until almost 300 years later, after Emperor Constantine's declaration
- **Why?** Maybe God's timing? Maybe a lack of intercessory support because he was alone? Certainly hearts were harder and minds were completely closed.
- **Paul' strategy changed.** No Antioch Declaration; instead, he tried the Athenian approach – he appealed to their intellect, tried to reason with them, and it fell flat. The Holy Spirit didn't show up.
- **On to Corinth** – “from now on, I am going to rely only on the Power of the Holy Spirit!!”



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- **Continue in the Grace of God (43)**