

Part II: “Endless Philosophies & World Views Will End!”

Acts 17:16-21

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, His spirit was provoked within Him when He saw that the City was given over to idols. Therefore, He Reasoned in the Synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile Worshipers, and Daily in the Marketplace (Agora) with Those Who happened to be There. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers encountered Him (Paul). And Some said, “What does this Babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a Proclaimer of foreign gods”, because He Preached (Gospel Message) to Them (about) Jesus and the Resurrection. And They took Him (Paul) and brought Him to the Areopagus (on Mars Hill), saying, “May We know what this New Doctrine is of which You speak? For You are bringing some strange things to Our ears. Therefore, We want to know what these Things (Gospel Message) mean!” For all the Athenians and the Foreigners Who were There (Areopagus) spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Acts 17:16-21 (NKJV)

REVIEW

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, His spirit was provoked within Him when He saw that the City was given over to idols.” ... Acts 17:16

Paul later Wrote This, “What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, & I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.” 1st Corinthians 10:19-20

CQ?

“This Morning Brother’s & Sisters Do You Feel Provoked In Your Spirit By God’s Spirit With A Great Desire & A Great Urgency To Share The Life Transforming Gospel With Others?”

Q

“What Does Paul Do In Response To This Provocation In His Spirit?”

A

Paul Daily Reasoned With Everyone He Came Into Contact With!

“Therefore, He Reasoned in the Synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile Worshipers, and in the Marketplace Daily with Those Who happened to be There.” Acts 17:17

Q

“What Does It Mean To Reason With Others?”

A1 – Fully Knowing & Relating

A2 – Using Logic & Reason

A3 – Relating Personal Relationship

A4 – Learning & Working Daily

Q

“When We Are Faithful & Diligent & Urgent To Share The Gospel With Others, What Types Of Outcomes Might We Expect?”

“Then certain Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers encountered Him (Paul).” ... Acts 17:18a

A1

Outright Rejection – Labeled As Idle Talk, Ridiculous, Unbelievable, & Nonsense

... And Some said, “What does this Babblers want to say?” ... Acts 17:18b

A2

Just Another Religion Among All The Others In The World

“Others said, “He seems to be a Proclaimer of foreign gods”,

because He Preached (Gospel Message) to Them (about) Jesus and the Resurrection

Acts 17:18c

Q

“What Is The Difference Between An Epicurean & A Stoic Philosophy & Worldview?”

A1 – Epicureans

Epicurean Basic Philosophy Is Based On Its Founder Epicurius.

The Basic Tenant Is There Is No God or gods!

The World / Universe Are The Only Knowable Reality
& Can Only Be Studied Through The Senses!

“Indulge In Every Way In This Life – This Is All There Is, Or Ever Will Be!”

“Modern Day Darwinian Evolution”

“If It Feels Good, Just Do It, After All You Only Live Once!”

A2 – Stoics

Stoic Basic Philosophy Is Based On Its Founder Zeno.

Believers Try To Reach *Eudaimonia* – Zen of the Mind Over Matter!

You Are Our Own God, You Control Your Own Destiny & Fate, By Your Thoughts & Actions!
Mind Over Body, Emotions, Matter, & Situations!

“Deprive & Discipline Yourself Now – For A Future Of Comfort & Security!”

“Modern Day Asceticism & New Age”

“If It Benefits The Earth & Everyone – That Is The Greatest Good You Can Ever Do!”

Q

“Where Do Most People Today Live Daily?”

A

Always Questioning Everything, But Never Coming To Any Decision Or Conclusion!

“For all the Athenians and the Foreigners Who were There (Areopagus)

spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.”

Acts 17:21

Q

“What Did The People of Athens & Their Philosophers Ask Paul To Do For Them?”

A

Present His Philosophy, His Understanding, & His Worldview of This Life!

“And They took Him (Paul) and brought Him to the Areopagus, saying, “May We know what this New Doctrine is of which You speak? For You are bringing some strange things to Our ears. Therefore, We want to know what these Things (Gospel Message) mean!” Acts 17:19-20

Paul’s Response To This Type Of Endless Questioning & Thinking

Echoes Down Through The Centuries To Us This Morning!

“For the Message of the Cross is Foolishness to those who are perishing, but to Us Who are being saved it is the Power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the Wisdom of the Wise (Epicureans), and bring to nothing the Understanding of the Prudent (Stoics).’ Where is the Wise? Where is the Scribe? Where is the Disputer of this Age? Has not God made Foolish the Wisdom of this World? For since, in the Wisdom of God, the World through Wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the Foolishness of the Message (Cross) Preached to Save Those Who Believe. For Jews Request a Sign, and Greeks Seek after Wisdom; but We Preach Christ Crucified, to the Jews a Stumbling Block and to the Greeks Foolishness, but to Those Who are Called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God. Because the Foolishness of God is Wiser than men, and the Weakness of God is Stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God Has Chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God Has Chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty. And the base things of the world and the things which are despised God Has Chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His Presence.” ...

... **“But of Him You are in Christ Jesus, Who became for Us Wisdom from God, and Righteousness and Sanctification and Redemption, that, as it is written, ‘He Who Glories, Let Him Glory in the Lord!’”** 1st Corinthians 1:18-31

REMEMBER

When Jesus Christ Returns To Earth The Endless Debates & Questions Will Cease!
All Other Philosophies & Worldviews Will End When He Comes Into View!
All That Will Remain Will Be The Reality Of God & His Word!

Appendix of Humor – Bottom Page 6

“What If Paul Was Joel Osteen?”

Paul Reminds Us This Morning, “Love never fails! But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For We know in part, and We prophesy in part. But when that which is Perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then Face to Face. Now I know in part, but then I shall Know just as I also Am Known. And now abide Faith, Hope, Love, these Three; but the Greatest of These is LOVE!” 1st Corinthians 13:8-13

TODAY & TOMORROW

Remember Your Calling To LOVE As You Have Been LOVED!

Your Calling Is Not To Save People, But To Serve All People In HIS LOVE!

Your Calling Is To Seek & Share With The Lost & Broken:

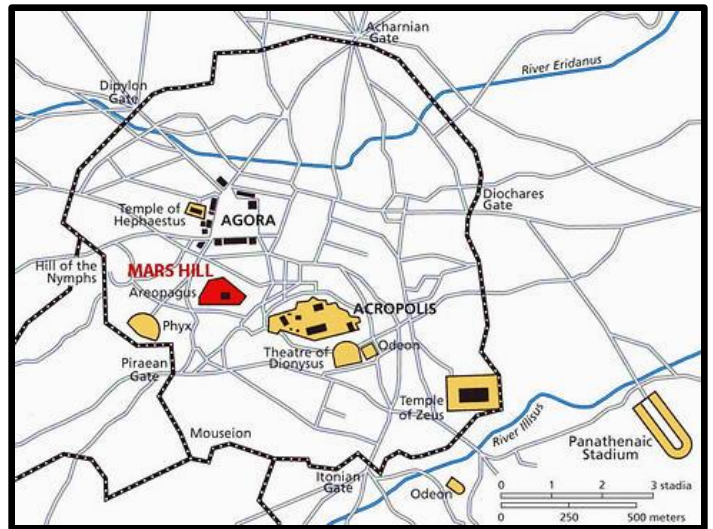
The Grace, Mercy, Truth, & LOVE of the Gospel Of Jesus Christ Our Lord!

APPENDIX I

World Map of Ancient Greece



City Map of Ancient Athen



APPENDIX II

Agora (Marketplace)

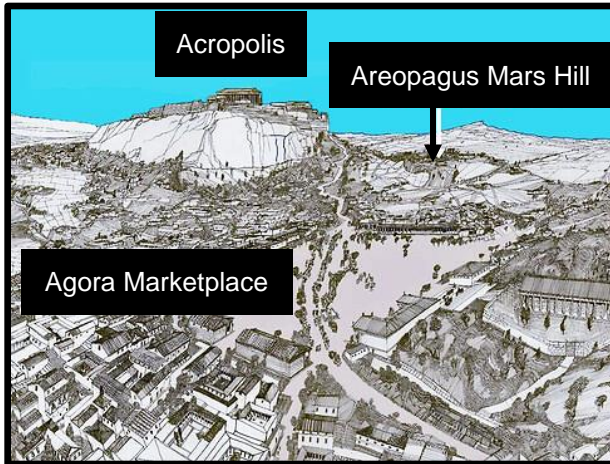


Acropolis (Mountain of Worship)

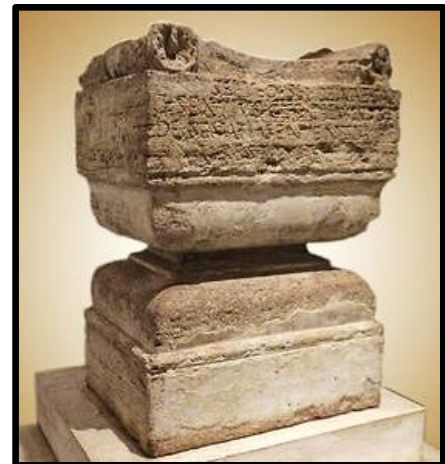


APPENDIX III

Relationship of Agora, Areopagus, Acropolis



Altar "To The Unknown God"

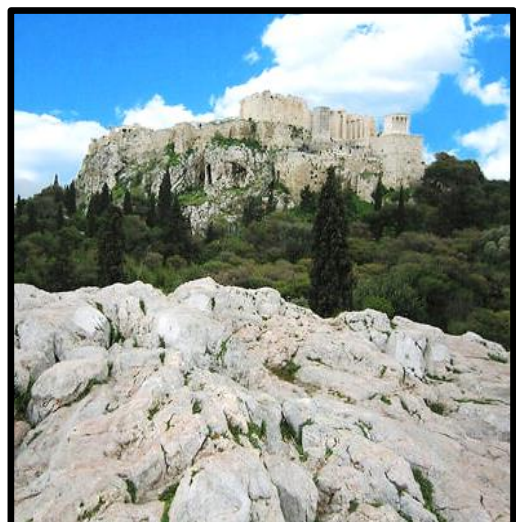


APPENDIX IV

Mars Hill (Areopagus) Ancient Times



Mars Hill (Areopagus) Modern Times



APPENDIX of HUMOR – “What If Paul Was Joel Osteen?”

