

Paul is waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, and during his wait he shares the Gospel in the Areopagus.

1. Waiting with a view of the world. (v.16)

- Athens was full of idols
- 'Men were worshipping everything, therefore they worshipped nothing'
- There was even an altar to "An Unknown God"
- Paul's spirit was provoked within him

*Athens was the intellectual capital of the ancient world. *"The most sacred shrine of the most fair humanities of paganism"*

Epicureans: the highest good is pleasure- minimize pain

Stoics: the highest good is virtue- life is tough, grin and bear it

2. Reasoning with a message for the world. (v.17-31)

- Paul initially was reasoning in the synagogue and market place
- He then began proclaiming Jesus and the Resurrection
- The Resurrection declares that God has revealed Himself and Salvation in Christ.

Who is He?

Where does He dwell?

How is He served?

What has He done?

What must we do?

"We may not worship idols crafted by wood or stone, but we do idolize family, work, success, comfort and control." (Christina Fox)

"And this is eternal life that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

3. Calling for a response from the world. (v.30-31)

- Having overlooked the times of ignorance
- God is declaring that all everywhere should repent
- He has fixed a day of judgment
- The Resurrection is proof to all.

Notice the response in Athens:

Some began to sneer
Others wanted more information
Some joined him and believed

*What is your response?