

Paul Visits Athens

This week we learn how Paul confronted the Athenians' superstition with the Gospel of Christ.

'He (God) hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man (Christ) Who He hath ordained'.

Acts 17v31.

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 17v16-34 (Paul preaches Christ crucified)	
Monday	Psalms 115 (Give glory only unto Christ)	
Tuesday	Psalms 100v1-5 (The Lord our Creator is God)	
Wednesday	Exodus 20v1-17 (The 10 Commandments)	
Thursday	Deuteronomy 5v1-22 (God's Law repeated)	
Friday	Psalms 19 (The Law of the Lord is perfect)	
Saturday	Romans 10v1-21 (Christ has satisfied the Law)	

Important Lesson for us today: - *Superstition* – is 'A widely held, but irrational (unreasonable), belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief'. It is Satan's method to distract us from the Truth of God's Word. He often mixes much error with some truth in order to deceive us. Remember, Satan is the 'father of lies'. God's Truth sets us free from superstitious belief and its' harmful practices. That is why we should read His Truth, The Bible, every day.

Hymn 197 – Jesus Christ, being Very God, is the only One worthy of our praise.

3. Jesus is worthy to receive, Honour and power divine: And blessings more than we can give Be, Lord forever Thine.	4. Let all that dwell above the sky, And air, and earth, and seas, Conspire to lift Thy glories high, And speak Thine endless praise.
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Paul Declares The Gospel of The God Who Can Be Known.

- **Paul Arrives in Athens, Ahead of Silas and Timothy, and Finds:** -
 - Athens to be a magnificent and prosperous city, a cultural capital of that time.
 - Many people thronged the streets - debating the latest philosophies and ideas.
 - Epicureans** – Seekers of pleasure; **Stoics** – Happiness through living virtuously.
 - They felt very superior in their knowledge - keen to show this off in discussions.
 - This is very similar to our society today – even we would rather talk than listen.
- **Paul is Very Sad and Troubled in His Soul at What He Finds:**
 - The Athenians are given over to superstitious idolatry – many idols.
 - Like today, the people loved gossip, fables, keen to hear something new.
 - Paul sees temples and idols for every false god, even a shrine inscribed **'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD'** – just in case they had missed out a god.
- **Paul Immediately Preaches The Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 - On Mars Hill he brings to them the truth about The One, True, Living God - The Gospel of Christ (as we teach you each week): -
 - **A Gracious Message** - God's readiness to forgive us all our sin. Without anger.
 - **A Serious Message** - How silly to make up our own god, ignoring our Creator.
 - **A Factual Message** – God's Perfect Son, Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross in the place of sinners, Who had risen again, Who calls us to repent and believe so as to be saved, and not be judged by God in The Final Judgement to come.
- **The Varied Reactions of the People:** -
 - **Some laughed** - Mocking and scornful to Paul and God. **'You are babblers'**.
 - **Some delayed** - A polite excuse - **'We will go away and think about this'**.
 - **Some believed** - A few acknowledged their sin, repented, and believed in Christ as their Saviour and Lord, experiencing the joy of His forgiveness.
- **Take Time Today to Check Your Reaction to The Gospel Call:** -
 - Do you treat God's call with scorn? Quietly laughing it off, and ignoring it? Rejecting The Living God means we have an 'idol' as our 'god'.
 - Do you secretly say, 'perhaps next week'? Never coming to The Lord. We are reminded that it is foolish to say, **"There is no God."** Psalm 14v1.
 - Are you seeking? Wanting to know more of God's Grace and Mercy? Wanting to find deep peace and joy in your soul that **only** knowing the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and Lord can bring.

Call on Him now in sincere and repentant prayer for forgiveness of your sin.

Paul wrote in Romans 10v13,

'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved', and in v17, 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God'.