

HE
IS



Acts 17:16-27

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the

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Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to

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the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”

²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend

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their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with

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with this inscription: To the unknown god.’
What therefore you worship as unknown,
this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who
made the world and everything in it, being
Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in
temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served
by human hands, as though he needed

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anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps

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feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

“Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go plunge yourself in the Godhead’s deepest sea; be lost in His immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon God.”

He IS | Self-Existent

God exists independent from anyone or anything.

He IS | Self-Existent

We are utterly dependent but God is utterly independent.

He IS | Self-Existent

God didn't create for His own enjoyment, pleasure, or to fill a need in Himself, but He created us so that we can enjoy Him and all that He has made.

He IS | Self-Existent

Because God needs nothing and everything flows from Him, we can rightly worship Him for all things and in all things.

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He IS | Self-Existent

Everyone worships SOMETHING

The tendency of the human heart is to worship either we will worship God or we will manufacture + worship idols.

“Our contemporary society is not all that different than those ancient societies, each culture is dominated by its own set of idols, Each culture has its own priesthood, it’s totems and rituals, each culture has its shrines whether office towers, spas, studios or stadiums where sacrifices must be made in order to procure the good life and ward off disaster.

Today, the 'gods' of beauty, power, money and achievement have assumed the same mythical proportions in our lives and society. We may not physically kneel before the statue of Aphrodite, but many young women today are driven into depression and eating disorders by an obsessive concern over their body image.

We may not actually burn incense to Artimus but when money and career are raised to cosmic proportions, we perform a kind of child sacrifice, neglecting family and community to achieve a higher place in business and gain more wealth and prestige.

He IS | Self-Existent

Only God is worthy of our worship

Acts 17:22-23

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with with this inscription: To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:24-25

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:26-27

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,
²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

He IS | Self-Existent

God's self-existence leads us to rightly worship Him.

Worship Him by cultivating gratitude and humble dependence not prideful independence.

Reflection:

Because God is self-existent [Creator,
Master and Giver]

Are you living in gratitude and
contentment for what God has given or
anxious longing? [Gratitude v. Entitlement]

Reflection:

Where do you need to renounce your faux-dependence? What does true dependence look like?

Reflection:

Have you renounced your religious works and self-salvation projects and received the finished work of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins? What is that changing in your life?

Confession:

“Lord forgive me when I have thought too little of you. Forgive me when I have entertained thoughts that are unworthy of you. Help me to trust You to be who You are and allow You to change me and to free me so that I might be more like Your Son.”

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