Making the unknown God known

Acts 17v16-34

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service Sunday 8th November 2026



Paul’s attitude (v16)

- Paul sees that the city is filled with idols
- This leads to him being “greatly distressed”
- This reflects God’s response to idolatry

Paul’s attitude (v16)

- Isaiah 42v8 – “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.”

Paul’s attitude (v16)
Paul’s actions (v17-18)

- He preaches the gospel…
  - Ø To all kinds of people
  - Ø And is willing to be misunderstood

Paul’s attitude (v16)
Paul’s actions (v17-18)
Paul’s approach (v19-34)

- The way *in* – the altar “to an unknown God”





Paul’s attitude (v16)

Paul’s actions (v17-18)

Paul’s approach (v19-34)

- The way *in* – the altar “to an unknown God”
- The way *forwards* – the basics of the Christian worldview

Five steps

- There is only one God (v24-25)
- God rules over everything (v26)
- Everyone has an obligation to seek God (v27-28)
- Idolatry is basically foolish (v29)
- God commands all people to repent (v30-31)

Paul’s attitude (v16)

Paul’s actions (v17-18)

Paul’s approach (v19-34)

- v31 – “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Five steps

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Application

- Listen… enter… try and move people forwards
- Where are you on the five steps?

The “unknown God” has made himself known!