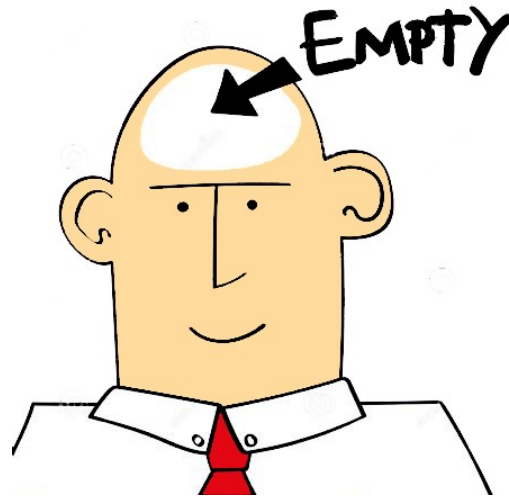
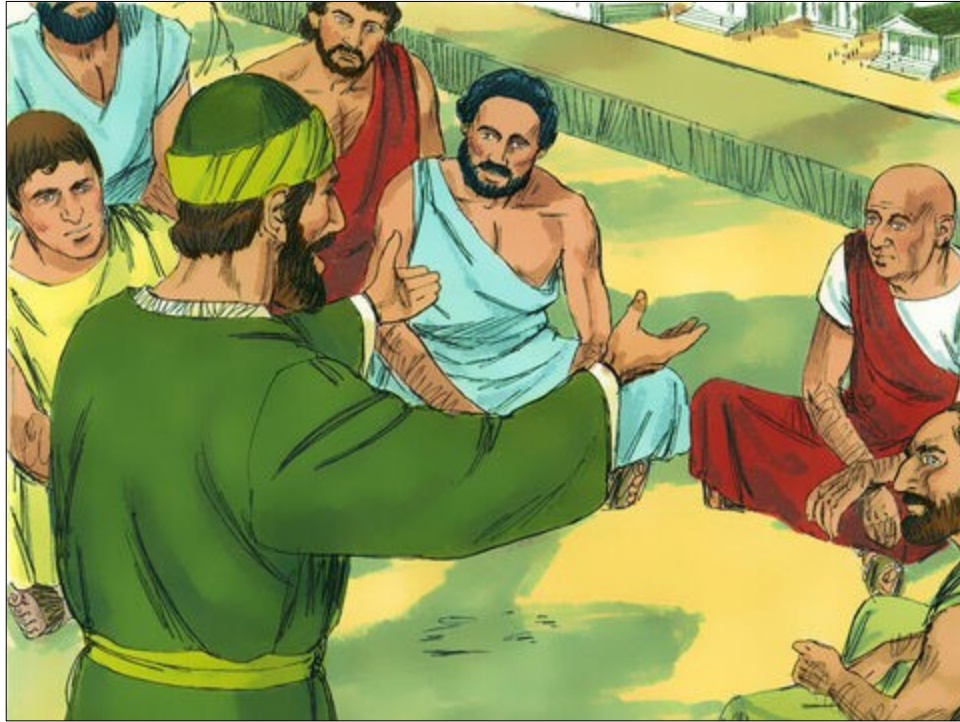


Sharing the Good News with people who have no idea about God – continued ...



Acts 17: 22-34

Now what you worship as something unknown
I am going to proclaim to you.

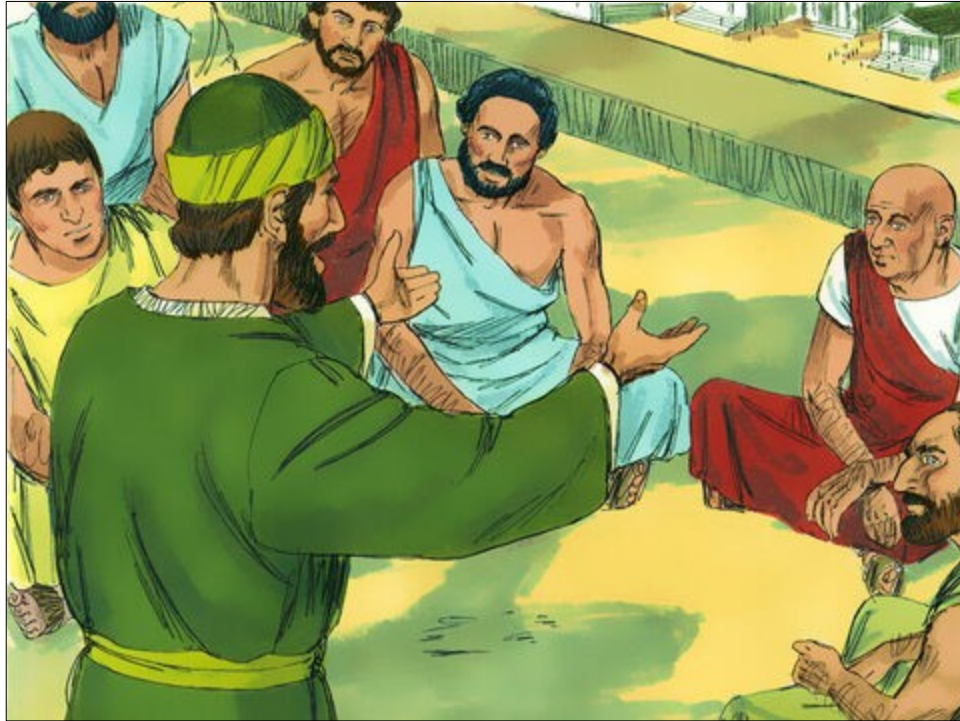


Worship without knowing
God isn't really worship.

Now Paul had to give them a
basic starting lesson on who
God is.

Thankfully for Paul, he only had to discuss what kind of God the creator is.

Now what you worship as something unknown
I am going to proclaim to you.



The confidence of a man
who knows what/who he is
talking about.

Our testimony has to come
from the heart and our
experience.

The God who made the world and everything in it
is the Lord of heaven and earth



God is bigger than you think.
He is the Creator of everything.
The 'maker of heaven and
earth' is another way of saying
that God made it all.
He is therefore LORD over all.

and does not live in temples built by hands.



He can't be contained
in man-made temples.

Paul could easily point to the
number of religious buildings
all around Athens.

God is too big for a box!

And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

He doesn't NEED anything

But HE GIVES – all that you need.



Knowing this we can be so thankful.



From one man (*blood*) he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth;



Paul didn't quote Genesis 1-3 but he is using it as historical reference. He believed (rightly) that we all came from Adam.

What are the racial implications of this truth?

From one man he made every nation of men,
that they should inhabit the whole earth;

The gospel includes the account of Adam!

The sequence is: Creation, – sin → death, - redemption/judgement

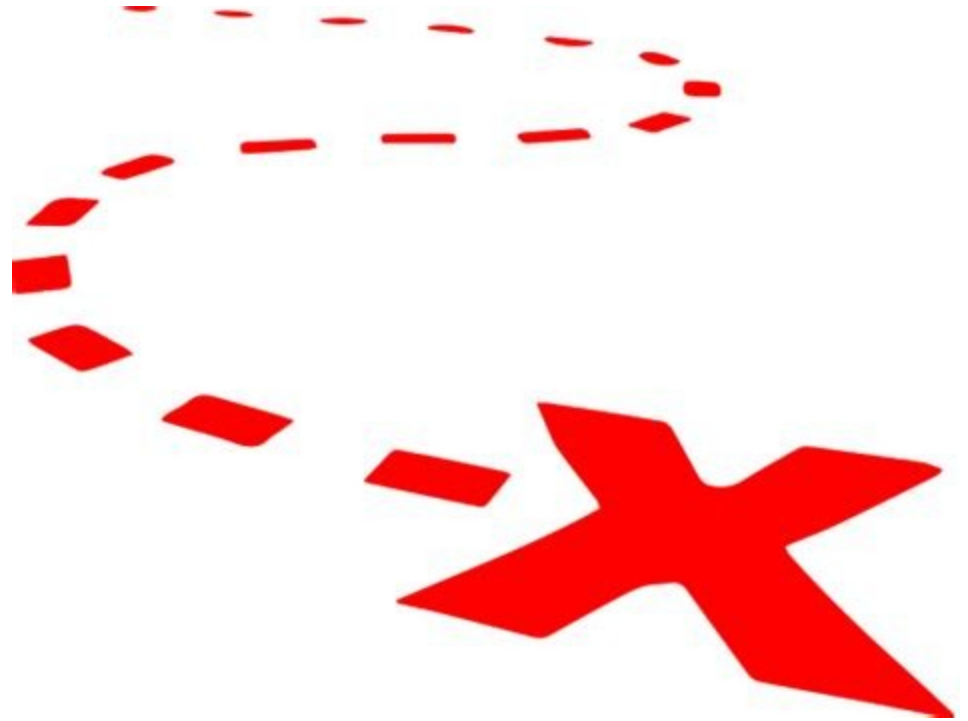


and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

God is the ruler in the lives of peoples and nations.

This counters one of the beliefs of some of the philosophers that 'the gods' don't get involved in human matters.

Peoples have chosen to inhabit various places – but God is in ultimate control.



God did this so that men would seek him
and perhaps reach out for him and find him,



God wants you to know him.

Humans are created to worship.

Why do people want to run away
from God?

though he is not far from each one of us.
`For in him we live and move and have our being.`



God is not just 'out there'.
He is nearer than you think.

He is the source, the giver
and sustainer of our lives.

As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Paul quoted one of the Greek poets to illustrate the point from Genesis 1:27
We are made in God's image.

Paul was aware of their culture and background, and uses that in order to reach them.



"Therefore since we are God's offspring,
we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone
--an image made by man's design and skill.



Since we are meant to be better than this way of thinking, we should realise: -

God can't be like these metal, stone, wooden dead things.

Humans may be skilful but they can't make an uncreated God!

In the past God overlooked such ignorance,



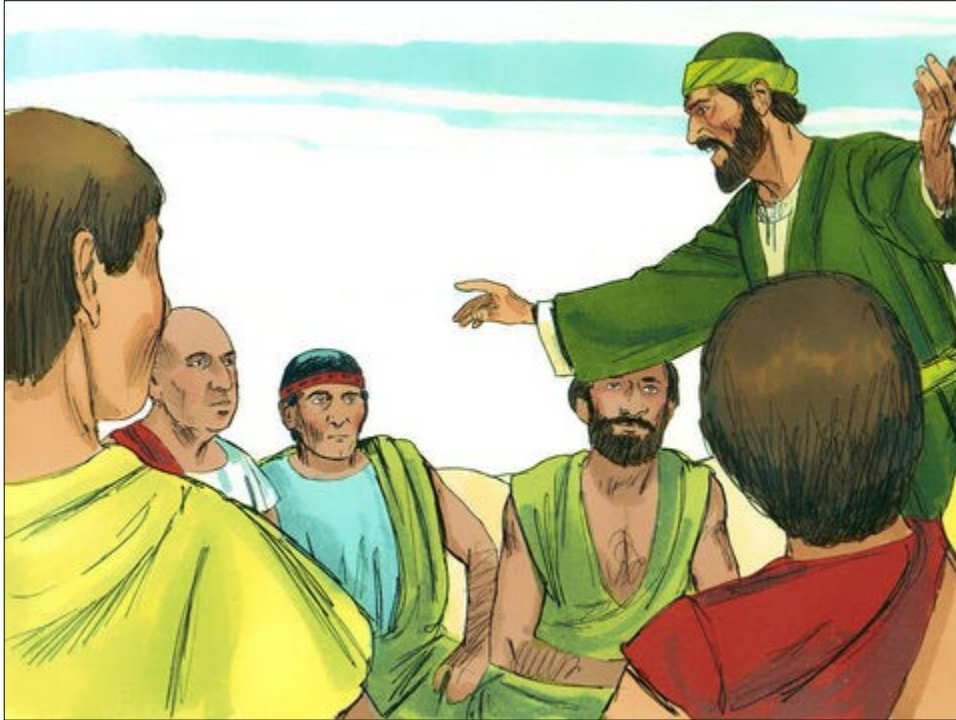
He overlooked?

He didn't angrily destroy you idolaters.

You didn't know any better? But if you had thought about it you should have known better.

Now people can hear about Jesus, ignorance is no longer an excuse.

but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.



He gives the orders:

You need to face up to what you are and turn from it. A call to repent is an important part of the gospel message.

It is his command AND your only hope.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice
by the man he has appointed.

There is a judgement day on his agenda! - There has to be!

It will come for everyone.

It will be absolutely fair – no cover-ups, excuses etc.

The Judge has been already appointed.

- a man who knows what it is all about.

Paul was about to teach
them about the Lord Jesus ...



He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.

Judgement Day is Guaranteed – proof by the resurrection
Death is not the end of our existence – Jesus' appointment
as judge is fixed – until the time of judgement.



GUARANTEED

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead,
some of them sneered,



This concept was not part of sophisticated Greek thinking. What people don't believe they tend to mock. They didn't want to hear about resurrection and judgement.

This seed fell on stony ground!

but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."



Some are still unconvinced but want
to know more
That's OK – it can take time to
consider the message and its
implications for your life.

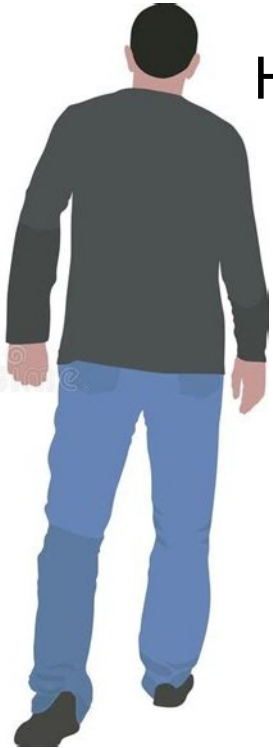
But don't use – 'give me more time' as an excuse

At that, Paul left the Council.

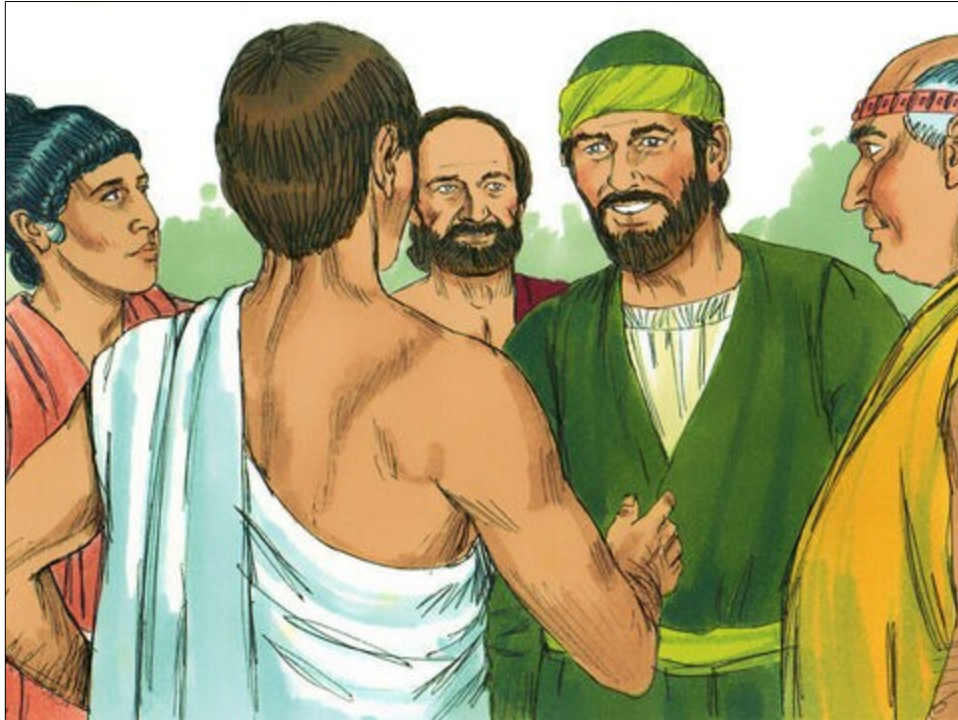
There was nothing more he could do at that time.

He could sense the attitudes of those present.

He had done what he could. He had to leave God to work.



A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.



With people coming from such a dark place, it was a work of God's grace that some actually became believers there and then.

Praise the Lord for these precious souls..



**I AM
NOT
ASHAMED
OF THE GOSPEL**
ROMANS 1:16

Are you worried about what people think?

*for it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes,
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 1:16

How big is your God?