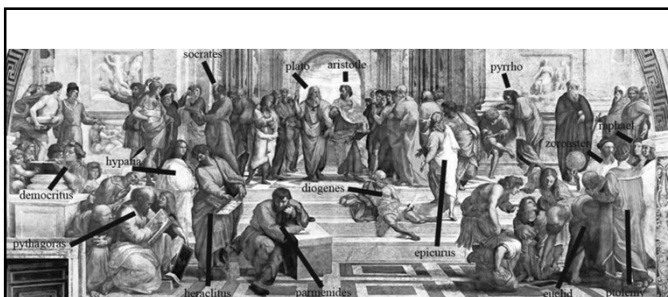


**\* Acts 17:16-34**  
*Paul Versus Athens (pt. 2)*



Athens (Acropolis today)



"School of Athens" (Raphael)



*Areopagus* -- the official council of Athens that served as guardian of the city's religion, morals and education

**Acts 17:22-31: Paul Before the Areopagus**

<sup>22</sup> So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.

<sup>23</sup> For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

<sup>26</sup> and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' <sup>29</sup> Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

### Making Known the Unknown God

1. Paul's Engaging Entry Point
  - their innate spirituality or religious nature
  - their open admission of ignorance of God

### Making Known the Unknown God

2. Paul's Biblical Orientation to God
  - *A sovereign creator God who stands above His creation and to whom humanity as creature is ultimately responsible*

### Making Known the Unknown God

- *Implications of God as Creator*
  - 1) God cannot be contained or controlled
  - 2) God is utterly self-sufficient
  - 3) God sustains life and all things
  - 4) God made mankind from one man

### Making Known the Unknown God

- *Implications of God as Creator*
  - 5) God is sovereign over history and nations
  - 6) God made man to seek and know Him
  - 7) God is immanent and knowable
  - 8) God is not the product of man's creativity

### Making Known the Unknown God

3. Paul's Call to Repentance
  - A universal call – a new era of repentance is now available to all nations
  - An urgent call – in light of the coming day of God's righteous judgment through Jesus