

Part 4: The Unknown God

Acts 17:22-28, 31-34

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:

"Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 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. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

31 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 all men by raising him from the dead."

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 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.

John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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Attributes:

Infinite: God is limitless and immeasurable in all His attributes. Whether it is His knowledge, power, or presence, God is infinite, meaning He is beyond all finite limitations.

Omnipresent: God is present everywhere at all times. He is not confined to any particular location and is fully present in every part of His creation. His presence permeates the entire universe, and He is always near to us.

Incomprehensible: God is beyond full human understanding. While we can know God because He reveals Himself to us, we can never fully grasp His essence or ways. His nature and actions are beyond our complete comprehension.

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Message notes:

God is _____ to these other gods.

An unworthy thought of God is a _____ thought that makes God more like us than we are like Him.

God is the _____ and source of everything

1. You have to have a God that doesn't fit in a _____ . Our God is incomprehensible and eternal.

Idols are something that _____ makes so that man can control.

Out of the total peace and satisfaction that the trinity had, love _____ them to create and to share with us.

2. God doesn't need _____ that you have to give Him.

We serve and give out of the _____ of the blessing of who He is.

God opens Himself up so we can know Him in a _____ way.

Additional notes:

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Discussion Questions:

1. The message discusses the danger of focusing on one attribute of God to the exclusion of others. Why is it important to maintain a balanced understanding of God's attributes, and how can we achieve this balance in our study and worship?
2. Pastor Jamie spoke about the dangers of God being in a box-limiting His incomprehensibility. How can expanding our understanding of His infinite nature enhance our faith and relationship with Him?
3. Pastor Jamie warned about the danger of idols in our lives as they distort our understanding of God's true nature. What steps can we take to identify and remove these idols to ensure our worship aligns with the truth of who God is as revealed in Scripture?
4. The message mentions that God is not served by human hands as if He needed anything. How does understanding God's self-sufficiency change our approach to serving Him and others?
5. The message spoke about the truth we find in Scripture. How can we ensure that our beliefs about God are firmly rooted in Scripture rather than personal feelings or cultural influences?

Ministry Time:

The message concludes with a call to repentance and the importance of knowing God through Jesus Christ. Pray for anyone who needs to repent of sins that have been keeping them away from an intimate God.

Pastor Jamie spoke about the reason behind our serving within the Church. Pray for anyone who finds yourself serving out of a sense of duty or obligation rather than from an overflow of love and gratitude for God.