

Intro.

- A. When I read about some the different people who lived long ago, I often wonder just how different they must have been to us, & yet how much alike people everywhere are.
1. Customs vary a good deal; clothing often gives particular identity to a group; conveniences...
  2. Most important diff./similarities will be seen in attitudes, affixations, & authority.
- B. The Athenians of **Ac. 17** doubtlessly have a lot of kindred spirits today – *i.e.*, those who have some notion that they should try to please God, but they do not know God, much less how to begin going about pleasing Him.
1. Athens was an extremely *religious* city, as travelers evidenced ASA they entered town.
    - a. Apollo = patron of the city. Statues to Mercuries, Hercules, Theseus, etc.
    - b. Shrines to Bacchus, Venus, Earth, Ceres, & Mars & a Temple of Unwinged Victory were found in Areopagus.
    - c. The Agora (center of public life) was the area where every god in Olympus could be found.
  2. Every public place & building = like a sanctuary:
    - a. Record-House = temple of Mother of the Gods.
    - b. Council-House spotlighted statues of Aploop & Jupiter, w/ an alter to Vesta.
    - c. Theatre (located at base of Acropolis) was consecrated to Bacchus.
    - d. Pynx (raised platform for orators) was dedicated to Jupiter.
    - e. Even alter to Fame, to Modesty, to Energy, to Persuasion & to Pity.
    - f. The Acropolis = a museum of art, history & religion.
    - g. The Parthenon (“The Virgin’s House”) honored Minerva, goddess of Health
    - h. Statues of Venus & the Graces, a shrine of Diana, & were part of the *atmosphere* that surrounded Paul in **Acts 17**.
- C. “Athenian religion ministered to art & amusement, & was entirely destitute of moral power.” (PCC, 85)
1. Ancient Romans, when alarmed by earthquake, prayed, not to a specific diety, but to a god...unknown!
  2. In this “super-religious” society that was also very superstitious, Paul intro. the Almighty in Athens.
  3. Today, Christians have same mission as Paul: *Dispel religious ignorance; bringing people to the knowledge of the one true God, & the absolute (singular) truth of His Word.*

Discuss.**I. GOD MADE US -- MAN IS NO ACCIDENT! vs. 24**

- A. Parents & Bible teachers *MUST* be responsible to teach our young people the Christian evidences about the origin of the world.
1. **Gn. 1:26f; Jn. 1:2f;**
  2. **Ex. 20:11 & 31:17** *In 6 days the Lord made the heavens & the earth & everything that is in them...*
- B. Biologist Garrett Hardin (Algeny, 112f), Dr. Colin Patterson (paleontologist of British Natural Hist. Mus.) & many others have abandoned Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory, because it conveys...”antiknowledge.”
1. In spite of the lack of evidence, our young people are still bombarded by textbooks that assume evolution is the only plausible explanation of origins of mankind, usually referring to not to *theory* of evol., but *fact*
  2. Even more frustrating & equally uninformed are those who try to compromise the creation account by talking of God starting everything (Big Push), & it evolved from there on.
- C. When one comes to know that God is **GOD** (Supreme, All-powerful, All-knowing, etc, etc) & that the Bible is His Word, then He is undeniably the Creator & Sustainer of the Universe.

**II. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE – IT IS BELIEVEABLE!!!**

- A.
- 1.
  - 2.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

- B.
  - 1.
    - a.
    - b.
  - 2.
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
  - 3.

**III. GOD I-S INTERESTED IN OUR DAILY TRIALS!!!**

- A.
  - 1.
    - a.
    - b.
  - 2.

- B.
  - 1.
    - a.
    - b.
  - 2.
    - a.
    - b.
  - 3.

**IV. GOD IS GOING TO REWARD THE FAITHFUL, & PUNISH THE DISOBEDIENT!!!**

- A.
  - 1.
  - 2.

- B.
  - 1.
  - 2.

- C.
  - 1.
  - 2.

**Concl.**

- A.
  - 1.
  - 2.

- B.
  - 1.
  - 2.

### **Know God** –

Titus 1:16 - They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

1 Th 4:5 - Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

2 Th 1:8 - In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 11:33 - O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

1 Cor 15:34 - Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

2 Cor 4:6 - For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 10:5 - Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Eph 1:17 - That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 4:13 - Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Phil 3:8 - Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Col 1:9 - For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Col 1:10 - That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Tim 2:4 - Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Heb 10:26 - For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

2 Pet 1:2 - Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Pet 1:3 - According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Pet 1:8 - For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Pet 2:20 - For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2 Pet 3:18 - But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Phil 3:8 - Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Phil 3:9 - And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Phil 3:10 - That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Phil 3:11- If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.