

Passage to Ponder

(Acts 17:22-25)

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

The Apostle Paul in this passage delivered an apologetic and evangelistic message to the people of Athens. One point to ponder in this courteous, creative, contemporary and conversant message is his correction of their wrong understanding of God and worship.

Paul said concerning their view of God that He wasn't to be thought of as an Athenian idol which is made by men's hands, rather He's the sovereign, all-powerful, all-knowing and ever present maker and sustainer of man and the universe.

regarding the ways they related to and worshiped their gods Paul said that God's not contained in a temple, nor is He worshiped by man's hands. The word used for worship isn't the word *proskooneh'o* which describes biblical worship, but it's a word that can mean to wait upon menially, to cure or to heal. This word gives the idea of helping an idol out by humans efforts and materials. What Paul's saying is they weren't to look at God as needing their help or relaying on their worship, He's the self reliant, giver of all life, breath and all things.

The LORD told the Children of Israel the same thing in Psalms 50:7-15 He said, "Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God! I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me. I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Our application this morning is as a Christian we can rejoice because God's not an idol reliant on us, rather He's the Great I AM we can rely on Him. Also regarding our worship, giving and service we should be thankful and see it as a privilege from our Father that we might express our love and take part in His work.