

Acts Part 35

- Intro, just been in Berea (good people, but Thessalonians came and tried to kill him)
- Paul has been sent to Athens, waiting for Timothy and Silas (and Luke)



Acts 17:16-34

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed when he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with those who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

- Paul's Gospel Rhythms
- Reasoned. Dilogamai. Dialogue. Discussion. Back and forth. Ask questions, listen, respond

18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. Some said, "What is this ignorant show-off trying to say?"

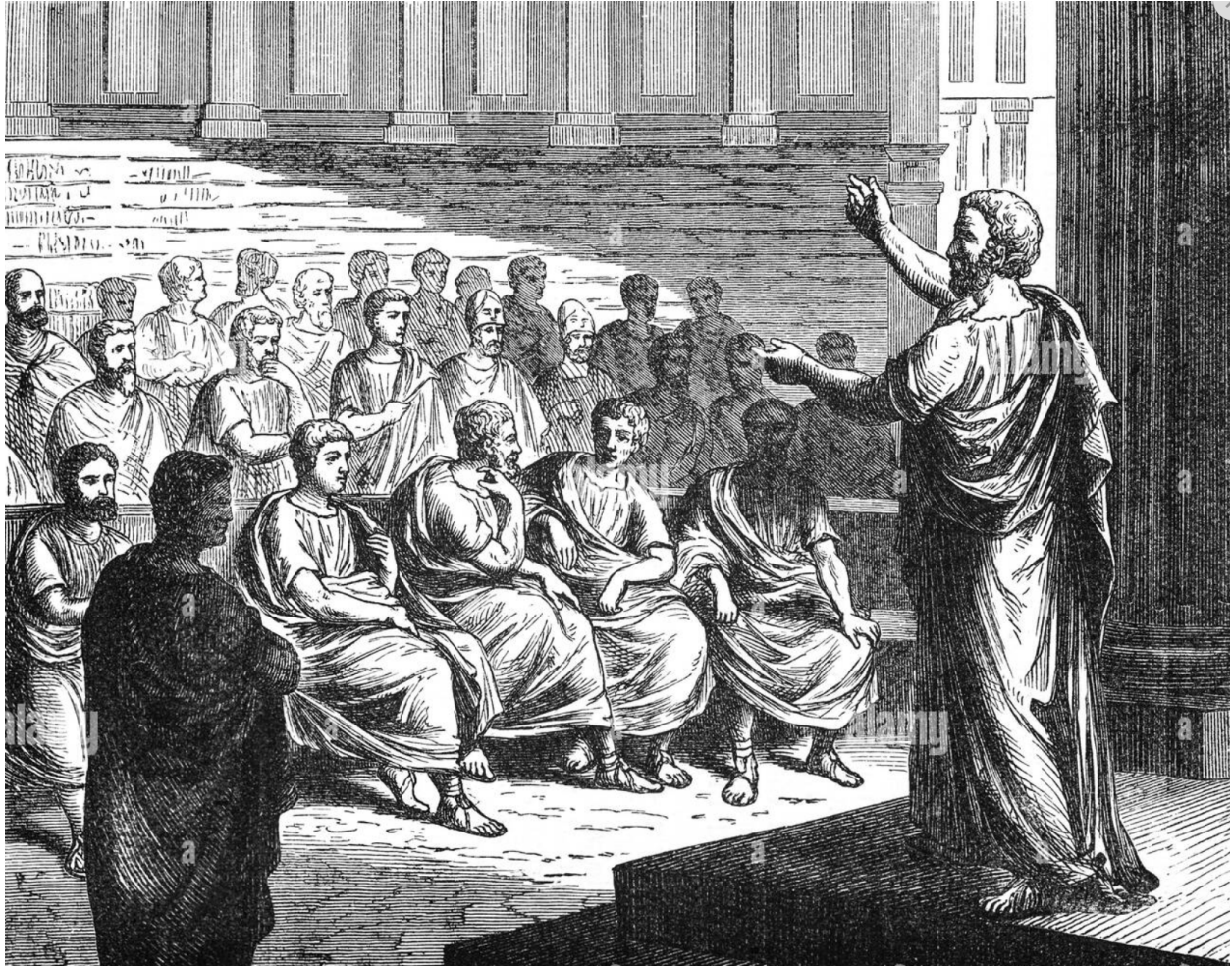
Others replied, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign deities"—because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

19 They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, "May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting? 20 Because what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these things mean."

21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners residing there spent their time on nothing else but telling or hearing something new.

I. Many Idols (vs.16-21)

- Athens was a pluralistic city. Many idols (v.16)
- The Athenians reasoned, discussed, and debated everything (v.17-18)
- The response of the people to Paul talking about Jesus, curiosity and disgust (v.18)



- Some are interested in hearing more (v.19)
- They take him to the Areopagus where people spent all of their time debating and talking about new ideas (v.20-21)

- Does this sound like anywhere you know? Social media...

The Areopagus Address

22 Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, "People of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. 23 For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, 'To an Unknown God.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands.

II. Paul's Introductory remarks (vs.22-24)

- Paul begins with a compliment (v.22)
- Makes an observation (v.23)
- Finishes his introduction with an accusation (v.23-24)

25 Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. 26 From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. 27 He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out 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 even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' 29 Since, then, we are God's offspring, we shouldn't think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and imagination.

30 "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

III. Paul's lecture (v.25-31)

A. **Who God is** (9 things)

- Creator of all things (vs.24)
- Lord of all things (vs.24)
- He does not live in anything made by man (vs.24)
- Man is not His servant. He doesn't need anything from you or me (vs.25)

Isaiah 66:1-2a

This is what the Lord says: Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool.

Where could you possibly build a house for me? And where would my resting place be? 2 My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being.

- God is the life giver. He is the one who allows you to breath (vs.25)
- God brought all men and women from one person (vs.26) CRT can be discounted
- God has decided where we will live and how long. Sovereignty (vs.26)

Job 34:14

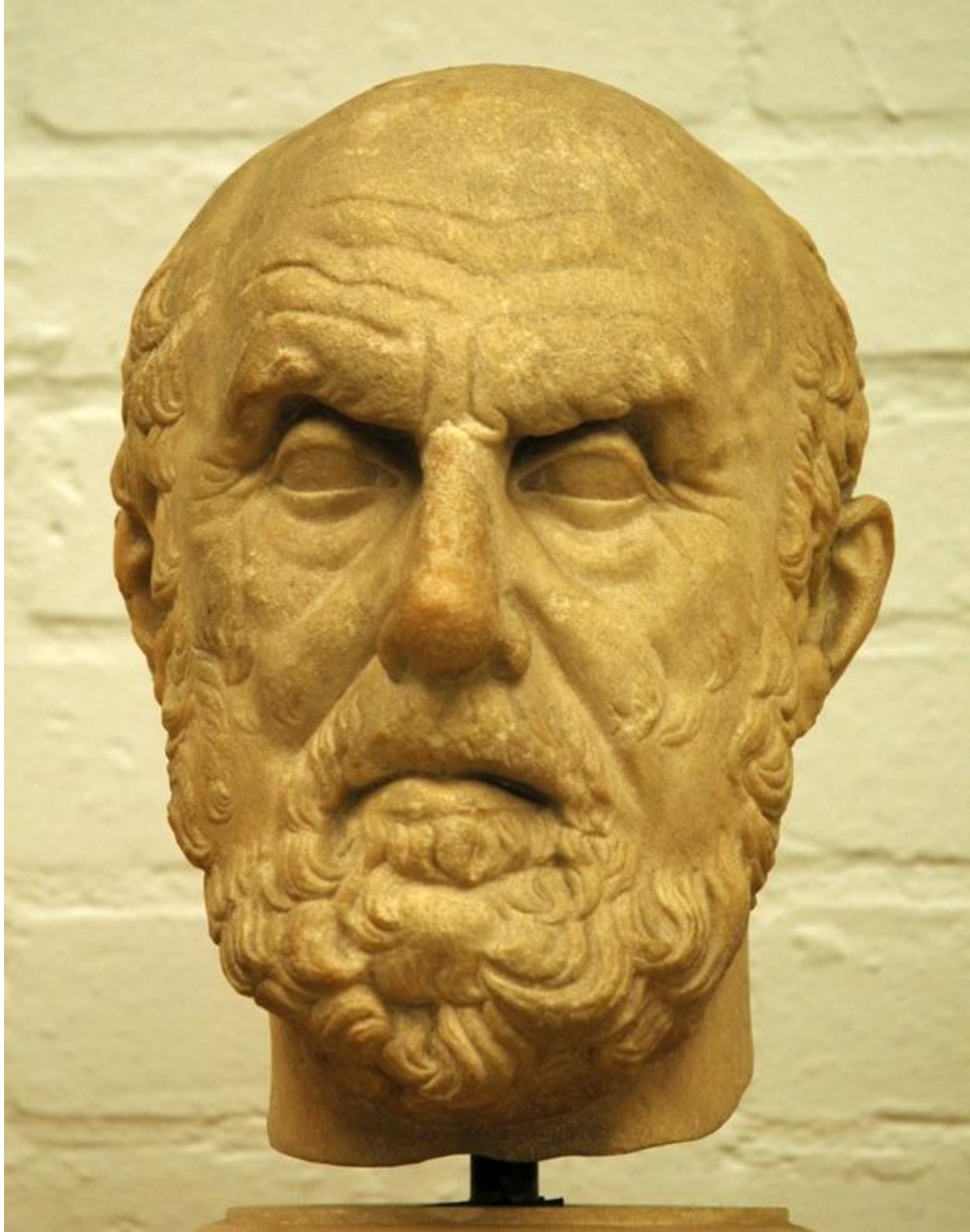
If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, 15 all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

- God has chosen to be close to us (vs.27)
- God has overlooked our ignorance (vs.30)

B. How we should respond (7 ways)

- God has done what He chose to do that we might seek Him (vs.27)
- We should look for Him (vs.27)
- It is only by God that you exist (vs.28)
- We are His offspring (vs.28)
- This is a quote from Aratus, a didactic poet that came from Paul's region of Cilicia (Tarsus was his hometown)





- Didactic poets liked literature and poetry to be explanatory...to teach
- Paul was making a didactic point that since God has created us, we should expect something much greater than wood and metal or something carved by man. (vs.29) Great point by Paul!

- Repent (vs.30)
- God is going to judge everyone and the standard will be His son's righteousness (vs.31)
- Jesus is called to be the Judge (vs.31)

John 5:22

The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him, but others said, "We'd like to hear from you again about this."

33 So Paul left their presence. 34 However, some people joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

IV. The people respond (vs.32-34)

- Some made fun of Paul
- Some found interest in what he said (vs.32)
- A few followed him. Not a lot, just a few (vs.34)

Outro:

- Gospel + Nothing
- Jesus saves us by Himself, not because of what you have done
- Our works which show our faith is not dead, is an overflow of what we have been given by God through His Son. Sola De Gloria!!