

How to Preach to Philosophers Acts 17:16-34

Marketplace evangelism leads to an invitation on Mars Hill. 17:16-21

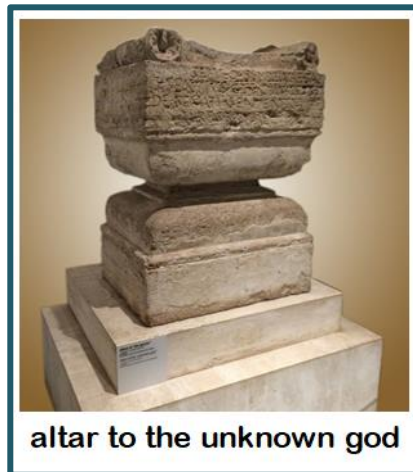
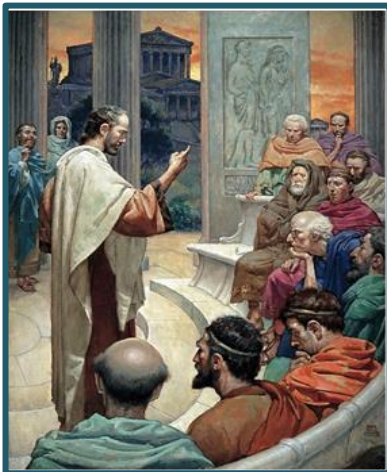
- Athens was filled with idols and filled with curiosity about anything new.
- Epicureans: Goal = seek pleasure because pleasure defines what is good.
Chance reins thus nothing to fear in God; nothing to fear in death.
- Stoics: Goal = accept your lot in life and do your duty with a dignified attitude.
A force-like God controls all thus there is nothing to fear but fear itself.
- Typical idolater: Goal = appease the gods and they will favor you.
The gods control many things so fear them and fear death.

Mars Hill speech offers a model for reaching philosophers. 17:22-31

- Look for ways to connect with people (“unknown god”).
- Clarify who God is (include non-biblical sources—Epimenides & Aratus).
- Warn about a judgment day coming and a need to repent (turn to/believe the gospel, 14:15-16, I Thess. 1:9,10). *Unknown god/times of ignorance* (14:16) are no longer an excuse since God has sent Jesus.
- Explain Jesus’ death and resurrection (big stumbling block here)

Mixed responses to the gospel can always be expected. 17:32-34

- Some reject the gospel.
- Some need time to digest the gospel and need to hear more later.
- Some *believe* (call to *repent* in v.30), including a councilman (Dionysius).
Again Luke highlights influential women (Damaris), 16:14, 17:4,12, 18:2.



altar to the unknown god