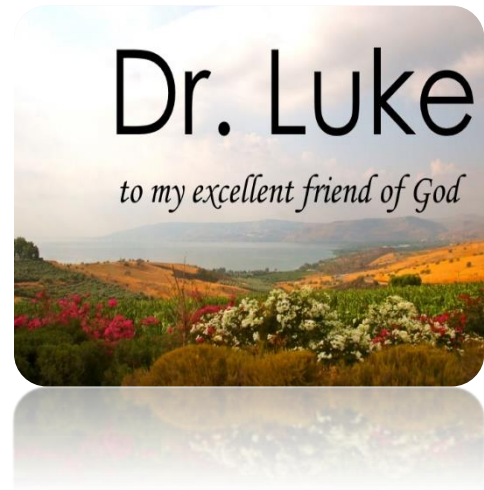


ACTS 17 vs 22

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Dr. Luke, perhaps the most meticulous recorder of early history; the renowned archaeologist Sir William Ramsey wrote of him: Luke is a historian of the first rank. Not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... but he should be placed along with the very greatest of historians. Luke has been compared with the Greek historian, Thucydides, who is often called: the father of scientific history... because of his strict standards of evidence gathering and analysis. Luke, the physician tells us: Paul was in the middle of that venerable Athenian Council.



22 Then Paul stood in the middle of Mars' hill and said, People of Athens, I perceive that in all you are a very superstitious community.

They probably were, but the word is: **deisidaimon**: **near the spirits**. Athens was like many cultures with demi-gods -- good and bad. In this context, his word speaks to the religious and devout. And in answer to their charge as a proclaimer of new demons, Paul says NO! You have enough demons already; I will not add to the number of them; **demons are real**, and daily harass those who populate earth. Athens had more altars to their gods than citizens in the city.

23 For as I passed by, and observed the objects of your devotion, I found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Don Richardson, in his book: Eternity in Their Hearts... writes, Paul discerned a difference between that altar and idols. Sometime 500 years earlier, Epimenides, the poet... was brought to Athens. In Titus, Paul calls Epimenides... the prophet, who said Cretans are always liars and lazy gluttons, and other stuff.



Epimenides came because a plague had raged at Athens; and back then, they had sacrificed to all their gods in an attempt to stay that plague. But Epimenides advised one morning to... let some sheep go where they pleased; and those sheep which did not graze... but laid down; where they lay down... the men of Athens were to build altars to the UNKNOWN GOD... to whom that affair of staying the pestilence did belong. And because they did not know how to properly call Him, they inscribed:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

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Therefore, whom you do not know, but you have good sense to worship! / agnoeo; the word for worship is: **eusebo**; it means **good sense**; and Paul says:

this I proclaim to you:

²⁴ **God / THEOS. the One GOD... who made the world and all in it,**

And Paul quotes one of the Stoic poets:

He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in naos made with hands / He does not live in shrines or holy places; even the Holy of holies is: naos; and the Stoics knew that;

²⁵ **nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything** / J B Phillips asks, after all, what could HE need when everything belongs to Him?

since He gives to all life, and breath, and everything that is needed / ALL and no exception! The LORD GOD says to Ezekiel, **All souls are Mine.** Again J B Phillips asks, What could you or I give to Him who alone gives breath and life, and everything needed to all mankind?

²⁶ **And has made of one blood all the nations to live over all the earth** / from one man; with the advances in DNA research and mapping... these links verify this truth; **EVE, Real Evidence**, and an article **mitochondrial DNA** on the Biblical Eve: **The Bible & the Myth of Race**

and has determined their appointed times, and the boundaries where they live / God determines what defines life here on His creation; and God is more concerned about His creation than any wasteful global warming peanut-head proponent;

²⁷ **that they should seek God, if it happens to be they might reach out after Him** / that they should search for THEOS; that they might reach out even in their darkness; Homer uses this word, as the blind groping for an entrance. Plato says guessing at truth. searching for something they did not know.

and find Him, though He is not far from each of us.

Paul next quotes **Epimenides** the poet...

²⁸ **“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.”** as some of your own poets have said.

He next quotes **Aritus**... the Stoic poet,

“For we are also His offspring” / we are of His family.

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Then Paul quoting **Clianthus**, who was the head philosopher of the school of Stoicism... 200 years earlier:

²⁹ **“For we are also the offspring of God”** / in his Hymn to THEOS, we ought not think that the divine nature of God is like gold, or silver, or a stone image fashioned by human creativity / by someone's ingenuity, or someone's imagination. No! Paul says, we ought not to think that God is like a block of clay; or a chiseled rock; or carved wood – things with ZERO power.

³⁰ **So the times of ignorance God over-looked; but now commands all people everywhere to reconsider / metanoeo;** to change what we know; to think correctly. **Not** to be **agnostic**... **not** to be **not knowing**; as Dr. Dallas Willard said about the fashionable agnostic: What time is lunch? I don't know, I'm agnostic. Dr. Willard said, well go find out!

Paul says to the Athenians, GOD threw the past behind. All that ignorance is gone! And now **metanoeo**: **meta = change + noeo = mind** **because without a changed mind there will be no changed heart:**

³¹ **Because He set a day, when He will judge the world in rightness, by the Man He ordained** / and that Man... back in verse 18, Paul named that Man. **His name is JESUS**. And those of this respectable assembly are fascinated by what Paul says.

THEOS...

God has ordained a Man and has given faithful assurance unto all / that is good news! And what is the evidence of all this good news?



in that He raised Him from the dead / What? And can't you see fingers flying in the ears trying to rapidly clean the ear wax? Huh? What did he just say?

³² **And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked** / probably the Epicureans: yet others said, **We will hear you again on this** / most likely the Stoics.

³³ **So Paul departed from among them.**

³⁴ **However some joined him, and believed, among them was Dionysius the Areopagite** / a council member, **and a woman named Damaris, and others with them** / some exercised their God-given assurance then and there. Don Richardson tells us, Dionysius later became the first bishop of Athens. His name is a derivative of Dionysus... a Greek god whose theology included a death / resurrection concept. And I bet Dionysius, knew what his name meant, and wondered as he heard Paul speak of JESUS risen from the dead!

[Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology](#)

[The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.](#)