

Lesson III.

PAUL AT ATHENS

July 16, 1916

Acts 17 : 22-34. Study Acts 17 : 16-34. *Scripture Memory Verse, Luke 10 : 32.

Golden Text—In him we live, and move, and have our being.—Acts 17 : 28.

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22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, *Ye men of Ath'ens*, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands ;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things ;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation ;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us :

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being ; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the God-head is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God

winked at ; but now commandeth all men every where to repent :

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that man* whom he hath ordained ; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked : and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.

33 So Paul departed from among them.

34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed : among the which *was* Dionys'ius the Areop'agite, and a woman named Dam'aris, and others with them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Our lesson of two weeks ago told how Paul went to the great heathen city of Athens. There he saw many strange sights. He saw crowds of people going in and out of beautiful marble buildings. These were temples where the people went to pray to gods made of wood and stone. They had so many gods you could never remember all their names.

Paul was alone, for his friends, Silas and Timothy, had not yet come over the sea. Paul was tired and needed to rest, but how could he rest when he saw those people praying to gods that could not hear nor see nor

speak nor move? He must begin at once to tell them about the living and true God.

On Sundays, he went to the Jews' church, and told them about Jesus. On week days he walked in the marketsquare, and told about the true and living God to all who would listen to him.

Beyond the marketsquare, there was a high, rocky hill, named Mars' Hill. The great council of the Athenians used to meet on this hilltop. They had heard that a stranger had come to the city and was telling people about a new God, and they sent mes-

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