

Lesson V.

PAUL AT ATHENS

February 1, 1903

Acts 17 : 22-34. Study Acts 17 : 13-34—Memory Verses, 28, 29.

Golden Text—He preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection.—Acts 17 : 18.

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 Godhead 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 everywhere 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* Di'onys'ius the A'reop'agite, and a woman named Dam'aris, and others with them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When the enemies of Paul heard that he was preaching in Berea, they followed him there and stirred up so much trouble against him that he was again obliged to flee for his life. So going on board ship he came at last to the city of Athens.

Here while waiting for his companions, Paul had time to see many of the sights of this great heathen city, which was noted for the learning and cleverness of its people, and for its beautiful temples and art galleries.

But Paul was sad when he saw how filled the city was with idols. Statues of gold and marble and bronze, all in honor of heathen gods and goddesses, lined the market-places

and streets.

Hearing that Paul was the teacher of a new religion, the proud and learned Athenians, always in search of some new amusement, brought Paul to their meeting place on the side of Mars' Hill, and invited him to give them an address.

"Men of Athens," said the apostle when they were come together, "I see by the number of temples and statues in your city that you are very religious.

"But as I walked about noticing your places of worship, I found an altar having this strange motto, '**TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.**' It is of Him that I have come to tell you.