

MESSAGE NOTES

April 27, 2008

“MAKE THE UNKNOWN KNOWN!”

What do you think Paul's evaluation would be of the American religious culture/climate?

READ Acts 17:22-31

People try to _____!

What did the altar to the "Unknown God" say to Paul?

The religious climate of Athens:

"..., notice that this religion is one mainly of outward reverence and ceremony. There is no "Athenian church"; nobody has drawn up an "Attic creed"—"I believe in Athena, the City Warder, and in Demeter, the Earth Mother, and in Zeus, the King of Heaven, etc." Give outward reverence, participate in the great public sacrifices, be careful in all the minutiae of private worship, refrain from obvious blasphemies—you are then a sufficiently pious man. What you believe is of very little consequence. Even if you privately believe there are no gods at all, it harms no one, provided your outward conduct is pious and moral (Davis, William. A Day in Old Athen quoted at <http://www.ellopos.net/elpenor/greek-texts/ancient-greece/old-athens-temples.asp?pg=2>

Describe the religious climate of America:

How can we fall into idolatry as sinful as the Athenians?

The _____ !

The natural knowledge of God reveals...

- *Romans 10:14 "How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*

The revealed knowledge of God in his Word tells me...

We Make the _____ !

What compels Paul and us to speak of "the Unknown God"?

What do I need to do to be "ready to give a reason"?

PREPARED to A.N.S.W.E.R.

Acknowledge the concern/question

- I (or others) have had that same concern

Need more information

- How would you define "....? "

- What led you to that conclusion/question?

Solidify the underlying issue

- So what you are saying is/your real concern is...

- So the real issue you are addressing is...

Wait for response

- Silence is deafening, but allow the person to speak.

- Make sure your answer will match the concern/question

Expect the Holy Spirit to bless your answer

- He promises to be with us

- He promises to give us words to speak

Respond

- In a way that is comfortable for you!

- With gentleness and respect – your goal is to share Jesus.

- With a Bible story, "There once was a person..."

- Your story, my story, His story