

# **Sermon Notes**

## **May 20, 2018**

### **“Naming the Unknown God”**

#### **Acts 17:16-34**

#### **Pastor Bill Hoffman**

The Epicureans believed the pleasure was the chief pursuit of humanity, while for the Stoics it was doing one's duty. Can you think of people today who believe these same philosophies?

Trace the flow of Paul's argument in verses 24-31. Note he does not cite Old Testament Scripture, but begins with what he thinks his hearers' will accept.

Note the three types of responses when Paul proclaimed Jesus' resurrection (verse 32-34).

Responding to the passage:

What are some situations or groups in which, on the surface, the good news of Jesus would seem irrelevant or at least awkward to interject?

Can you identify some of the “unknown gods” in those settings, and -- at least in your own mind -- make connections with the gospel?

Consider someone you know who is not yet a follower of Jesus. What might be some points of spiritual common ground: openness to God as creator (verse 24)?

Felt needs such as for security or hope?

Something else?