

The Art of Religion

Acts 17:26-31

Intro: Sharing the gospel with those of different religious backgrounds.

I. Where Does Religion Come From?

- A. God's Plan: Adam and Eve in the Garden
 - B. When Adam and Eve believed falsehood
 - Genesis 3:4-5, Deut. 32:8, 16-17, 21
 - Tower of Babel: monotheism into poly, pantheism
 - Romans 1:18-32
- Religion is a response to God's revelation: in faith or rebellion

II. Idolatry in Athens

- A. More idols than people
 - Capacity to worship became debased
 - Reaching for that which was lost (altar to unknown god)
- B. Does God accept ignorant worship?
 - Was a time God winked at it, but now calls us to repentance
 - This is the God we declare to you

III. Who is this Unknown God?

- A. Ruler over creation, Acts 17:24
 - Some rebelled, he allows but will soon judge
 - Fruit of rebellion is what we see today
- B. Dwells in temples not made with hands, Acts 17:24
 - Many worship physical things
 - Lives revolve around possessions
- C. He needs nothing (Self sufficient), Acts 17:25
 - He doesn't need my worship, my money
 - He does want me, and allows me to invest in him
- D. He is the sustainer of life, Acts 17:25
 - Gives life, breath, all things.
 - He establishes limits and course of mankind
 - Graces and pains are messengers of God

IV How Can I Know This Unknown God?

- A. Through his Son Jesus Christ
 - He reveals the Father, he makes a way to the Father
- B. He calls us to repent
 - Turn around, don't worship self any longer