

Mars Hill Lesson Acts 17:16-21

Background

Follows persecution in Thessalonica & Berea after imprisonment in Philippi
Athens - wholly given to idolatry

More worshipped images than rest of Greece together

Epicureans - live for pleasure; materialists

Stoics - god is world/world is god, governed by fate, no good or bad, nothing immoral of itself
Synagogue preaching attracted listeners who did not even believe in God

The Areopagus - "Ares" Greek god of war / "Mars" Roman god of war - Areopagus/Mars Hill

The Message

Fervor And Zeal Are Not Enough

Very religious **v 22**

Fervor & zeal for what? Did not know God - **John 4:24; Romans 10:1-4; Matthew 7:21-23**
God expects us to serve with knowledge - We Must Know God!

God Dictates Worship

Following men's ideas **v 24-25**

Did not know how to worship - **John 4:24**

Considered inanimate objects as way to honor & praise - Offered 'service' by honoring image
Spend considerable time teaching this basic idea; Emphasis of much Scripture

1Corinthians - Only follow Christ; Lord's Supper; Hebrews - Christ superior, Assemble; James -
Attitude in prayer, Equality in access

Our culture, society, friends, etc have no bearing on how we ought to worship God

Finding Requires Seeking

Were not looking for God; Creating their own gods **v 27-28**

Just added another idol in case they missed one - **Isaiah 43:7; 59:1-2**

God is not hard to find - **Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 7:7-8**

Found in the Word - **John 6:45; Jeremiah 29:13**

The Point

Repentance Is Required Now

They were out of time **v 29-30**

Still in ignorance - **Jeremiah 10:3-4,6-10**

God would no longer tolerate - **Matthew 19:8-9**

No more convenient time - **Acts 24:25**

The Call

Judgment Is Coming

Playing around instead of being busy preparing **v 31**

Time is set - **Hebrews 9:27**

Righteous judgement - **2Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

Righteous judge - **John 5:25-29**

Time has come to take action - **2Peter 3:11-12;17-18**

The Response

Most walked away **v 32**

Some believed and joined **v 34**

What about me?