

Athens
Lesson 4
Acts 17:16-34

In spite of opposition and being “*run out of town*,” Paul, with the help of Silas and Timothy, established churches in Thessalonica and Berea. While Silas and Timothy remained behind in Berea, Paul had been escorted to the city of Athens.

The City of Athens – Acts 17:16-18

1. While Paul waited for Silas and Timothy to join him, he toured throughout the city. What caused Paul great distress? (Acts 17:16)

2. How did Paul deal with this distress? (Acts 17:17)

3. This attracted the attention of two groups of philosophers, the Epicureans and the Stoics. They began to dispute with Paul. What were some of the comments made? (Acts 17:18)

The Areopagus (Mars Hill) – Acts 17:19-34

4. Paul was brought to a meeting of the Areopagus, “a Council who considered themselves custodians of teachings that introduced new religions and foreign gods.”¹ What question and concern did the Council express to Paul? (Acts 17:19, 20)

5. Verse 21 is in parentheses indicating the author Luke’s addition. What information did he feel was important for his readers to know about the people of Athens? (Acts 17:21)

6. Paul used this as an opportunity to share the gospel with the Athenians. Paul stood up and addressed the Council, “*Men of Athens!*” How did he gain their interest and attention? (Acts 17:22, 23)

7. Paul introduced the "*unknown god*" as "*The God.*" What facts about God did Paul start his message with? (Acts 17:24-25)
- Who made
 - Is
 - Does not
 - Is not
 - Because
8. What did Paul say about God in relation to man? (Acts 17:26)
9. After presenting who God is and what he has done, Paul stated why God had done this. What was the reason he gave? (Acts 17:27)
10. What profound statement did Paul make to these philosophers regarding the relationship between God and man? (Acts 17:28a)
11. Drawing on their own poets, how did Paul explain the relationship between God and man? (Acts 17:28b)
12. Since that is truth, what did Paul say they were not to think regarding God? (Acts 17:29)

13. Paul continued his message saying, *"in the past God overlooked such ignorance."* But what about now that they have been made aware of his identity? (Acts 17:30)
14. Why is taking that action so important? (Acts 17:31a)
15. What evidence or proof did Paul cite? (Act 17:31b)
16. The resurrection of a man from the dead is not a common occurrence. In fact, it isn't supposed to happen! What was the reaction of the Council to Paul's "proof?" (Acts 17:32)
17. When Paul left the Council that day, *"a few became followers"* or disciples because they believed the message Paul brought. Who did Luke name as among those early Athenian disciples? (Acts 17:34)

¹The NIV Study Bible; Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985; footnotes on page 1689