

- Many people are seekers. Not only are many people seekers, but many people are seekers of different things. Some seek after personal happiness. Some seek after the happiness of others. Some seek after great knowledge. Some seek after wealth. Some even seek after a higher being. Some people seek after something that is higher than themselves. Many people would deny the existence of a higher being, but that doesn't stop many others from still believing in and seeking after that higher being.
- This isn't something that is new to our time. In fact, since the first century men have been looking for and seeking after a higher being. The city of Athens was especially known for its large number of individuals and groups that were seeking after knowledge and high supernatural beings. The Apostle Paul finds himself in Athens as he is journeying about spreading the Gospel message. As he is looking around the city of Athens, he sees how deeply involved this city is with idols. He strikes up some conversation with some of the residents, the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers, and they recognize that Paul is speaking of something new in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These were people who were accustomed to talking about those new thoughts and teachings (**v.21**). These people wanted to give Paul the opportunity to speak about this new thing that they hadn't heard of at this time, and we all know that Paul didn't need much of an opening to speak about the Lord. This was a perfect opportunity to speak of God, Jesus, and the Gospel, and Paul did just that in the following verses from **vv.22-31**.
- Paul makes the observation that these men were very religious. They were so religious to the point that they made sure they didn't leave any god out by making this alter to the unknown god. Paul seizes the opportunity when seeing this and goes on to tell the people about that God that they did not know and that they were seeking. It is obvious that these people were seeking. They were searching for that which was greater than all else. They were seeking to know that which was not known, at least to them at this point. There are many people doing the exact same thing today. We already talked about the fact that many people are seeking after God. There might even be someone here this morning that is seeking to find God. If that is you then consider the words of Paul as he teaches the Athenians about this unknown god that they were seeking.

### To seek and find God...

#### I. ...We must know who God is.

##### A. The Creator of the universe. (**v.24**)

1. Paul begins by stating that this God that he is proclaiming to them is the one that created all that is. He is Creator of heaven and earth.
2. Because He is the Creator of all, He does not dwell in temples made with hands.
3. The God that they did not know cannot be contained by a physical structure.
4. Paul recognized this truth just as Solomon did when he build and dedicated the temple in Jerusalem to the Lord. (**I Kings 8:22,27**)

##### B. The Sustainer of life. (**v.25**)

1. Not only is this God the don't know the Creator of the universe, but He is also the one that sustains it.
2. He is the giver of breath and every other thing that is needed to live and survive on this earth. (**James 1:17**)
3. While we need these things to survive, God is in need of nothing to continue on.
4. Both of Paul's first two points are summed up well by those worshipping and praising God in the great throne scene in **Revelation 4:11**.

##### C. The Ruler of all the nations. (**vv.26,27**)

1. God is Creator of mankind and He has the power to rule all the nations of the earth.
2. Paul expresses that this God controls the nation's rising, falling, and growing. Many years before Daniel, recognized the same thing. (**Daniel 2:20,21**)
3. God has done all of these things so that man might seek after Him because He is not far from any of us. All things are done to His Glory.

D. The Father of mankind. (vv.28,29)

1. We are all from this God that Paul is speaking of. This is something that is not lost on mankind. We recognize that we must have come from something and the poets of the time recognized this because they proclaimed that mankind are His children.
2. If we are created by Him then it is not logical for us to think that we could create Him in an image of something physical.
3. God cannot be contained in temples or objects made with hands. Their images were useless when put up against the true awesome nature of the God of heaven.

E. The Judge of the world. (vv.30,31)

1. As the Creator of the world, the God Paul is proclaiming has the authority to rule and judge the world in righteousness.
2. This God of heaven has for a long time overlooked the ignorance of man, but that time has come to an end and He now has some requirements for man kind and they will be judged according the standard that He has dictated.
3. If we want to truly seek after and find God then we need to know about Him and Paul has expressed that. We also must know what God desires and Paul also reveals that to the Athenians.

II. ...We must know what He requires of us.

A. He requires us to repent. (v.30)

1. This requires for man to recognize his broken condition before God. All men have sinned and have failed to glorify God in their lives. (**Romans 3:23**)
2. Man must be willing to change their lives and live according to the righteousness of God.
3. That righteousness is revealed through the inspired men of God. Paul was speaking to those present in Athens, and he continues to speak today through the words recorded in the inspired text of the Bible.
4. The repentance of man is based upon the man Jesus Christ and His authority

B. He requires us to believe in His Son. (v.31)

1. Jesus Christ came to this earth and preached about a coming Kingdom that Paul was a part of while he spoke in Athens.
2. The true power of God and the sign of the legitimacy of Christ was shown through His resurrection from the dead.
3. The resurrection was strong proof that Jesus is the Christ. One who believes this, repents of his sins, and is willing to submit themselves to baptism as Paul taught in **Romans 6** will have their sins forgiven and will be joined to the family of God in Christ Jesus.
4. The judgement of God was a sure thing according to Paul and he stressed to the people of Athens the importance of not only knowing the God they were seeking, but also obeying the commands of His son.

The Athenians were blessed to have Paul stand before them and proclaim the God that they were seeking. He taught them of the nature of God, His love for mankind, and the importance of His Son and His mission. Many people, today, are seeking for that same God of heaven. The road to God is the same today as it was those many years ago. May God help us to seek after Him and put our faith in His Son through repentance and obedience, and may we find the safety and confidence that is only found in His Son. The judgement is coming, and may God help us all to be prepared for that day.