**Acts 17:16-34**  - Unknown God

In the 6th century B.C., when the poet Epimenides lived, there was a plague which went throughout all Greece. The Greeks thought that they must have offended one of their gods, so they began offering sacrifices on altars to all their various false gods. When nothing worked they figured there must be a God who they didn’t know about whom they must somehow apease. So Epimenides came up with a plan. He released hungry sheep into the countryside and instructed men to follow the sheep to see where they would lie down. He believed that since hungry sheep would not naturally lie down but continue to graze, if the sheep were to lie down it would be a sign from God that this place was sacred. At each spot, where the sheep tired and layed down, the Athenians built an altar and sacrificed the sheep on it. Afterward it is believed the plague stopped which they attributed to this unknown God accepting the sacrifice.

Two points of Acts 17

- Athenians were very religious, they were interested in hearing Paul, but they did not want to know for the right reasons

- Athenians were polytheists, they had many gods, but they had no creator God. This is why Paul preached that God created all things

PART I - THE UNKNOWN GOD

POINT - **People would rather worship a God they do not know than the God they know**

Why - Their god won't hold them accountable.

*Romans 2:6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":*

Why - Their god has them convinced that he is truth

*2 Corinthians 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

Why - Some people just don't like our God

a. They see Him as mean

1. SUBPOINT - **Evolution**: people would believe something they have never seen

2. SUBPOINT - **Agnosticism** - a belief in something, a denial that it is God

3. SUBPOINT – **Idols:**People build up idols of vanity. I.E. Sports, Entertainment.

POINT - **The Athenians wanted to hear Paul, but not for the right reasons**

1. SUBPOINT - They thought it was interesting, but not necessary

PART II - THE KNOWN LIVING GOD

1. The Creator God - **Genesis 1:1-5**

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made*.

a. Pagan gods had no creator god. Our God created all things with words, He made life with breath

2. The Loving God **- I John 4:7-12**

a. Pagans feared their gods because they were childish and temperamental

(1) Their gods did not love them

b. The known God loves His children beyond measure

3. The Honest God

*Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

a. The Known God keeps His word

(1) He will reject those whom He said He would reject

(2) He will save those whom He promised salvation