

Agnostos

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Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

Acts 17:23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

The Greeks were polytheistic. The gods and goddesses were worshiped publicly and with great popularity. Greek mythology flourished. Through the preaching of the apostle Paul, truth flourished in the midst of myths.

Paul saw an altar with this inscription TO THE UNKNOWN GOD... to the agnostos theos.

The agnostic neither has faith in nor denies the existence of deity; he believes that god is simply unknowable. The Athenians were open to the idea of other gods existing they may be unaware of. They were very inclusive in faiths. They always accepted another additional god though unknown to them.

Athens being the cultural center of the world, accommodated travelers from afar. The commerce was welcomed. Their money was always a welcome sight. The love of money, as the Bible declares, is the root of all evil. Finance and faith through the ages have been made strange bedfellows.

To make sure the foreigners would feel at home, the Athenians had a go-to altar, one specifically designed for outsiders. If the foreigner did not find an altar with the name of his deity, he was directed to go to this particular altar. It accommodated anybody. This altar served a purpose, as most altars do. It just was not for the right purpose.

The Athenians joined at that altar, and there they ignorantly worshiped. Paul said, "...him I declare unto you." His passion was to know Him and for all to know Him.

Paul knew that true faith does not include all past beliefs and faiths of every sort. True Christianity is not everything you believe, plus Jesus. Jesus is not an add-on to one's list of devotions. He is to be worshiped exclusively.

-RWT

10/6/22