COMING TO KNOW THE "UNKNOWN GOD" DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ACTS 17:16-33

Sermon Outline: Acts 17:16-34:

What did Paul _____?

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1 Read Acts 17:22-28. How does Paul begin his message to the philosophers?

🥰 What important principle can we learn for talking to those who differ greatly from our beliefs?

🖋 Compare this message with the one cut short in Lystra in Acts 14:15-17. Where does he begin?

🖋 Someone has said, "The gospel is God." What does this mean? Is it correct?

Where does God dwell (Acts 7:48; 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6; Isaiah 66:1)? How does this make the one true God different from all the others?

3 Does God need anything (Psalm 50:8-13)? What aspect of God's character is Paul referring to?

Why is this important to understanding God and salvation (Romans 11:33-35)?

4 Read Acts 17:29-31. What seemingly obvious statement does Paul make about idols and God (Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 44:9-20)? Why do people everywhere misunderstand this (Romans 1:18-23)?

5 What does Paul declare about this God that they do not know? What aspects of his nature and character does he include?

🖋 a. What did Paul call their "Golden Age of Philosophy" (Acts 17:30)? 🖋 b. What does Paul say about God's mercy toward them? 🖋 c.. What has God now commanded for all men? Why now? 🖋 d. What has God appointed (Acts 10:42)? Compare this with John 5:20-29. Some say all religions are the same. What arguments does Paul use to contradict this notion? ┛ a. Read Acts 17:32-34. What were the reactions of the Athenians? What is significant about Dionysius? What does this tell us about the effectiveness of Paul's approach? Do you think Paul appeared foolish to some in Athens? Why did he continue to share about the resurrection (1 Cor. 1:18)? 🎔 a. What do you believe about the resurrection of Jesus? How has Jesus' resurrection changed your life? PRAYER REQUESTS Take some time during this Easter season to think through some "Resurrection Proofs." (Excerpt from an interview with Lee Strobel, author of The Case for Christ...) Q: Did Jesus' return from the dead back up His claim to deity? A: I look at the four E's of the resurrection: First, the **execution**. We have no record of anyone surviving a full Roman crucifixion. The evidence for the execution is so strong historically because not only do we have multiple sources in the New Testament, we have five ancient sources outside the New Testament that confirm and corroborate His execution. Then, we have early accounts that He rose from the dead. Most people like me thought it was a legend that developed a long time later. And it generally took, according to A.N. Sherwin-White, the great Oxford scholar, at least two generations of time for legend to grow up in the ancient world and wipe out a solid core of historical truth. But we have—and this was a key bit of evidence for me—1 Corinthians 15 starting in verse 3-a creed of the earliest church that says that Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose on the third day. Eminent scholar James D.G. Dunn says we can be entirely confident that this creed was formulated within months of Jesus' death. So here we have something that goes right back to the beginning—too quickly to write it off merely as a legend. Then we have

that goes right back to the beginning—too quickly to write it off merely as a legend. Then we have the **empty tomb**. For me the most convincing piece is what the skeptics said. When the disciples began saying that Jesus had risen, what the skeptics never said was, "Baloney, go open the tomb and you'll see the body." That would have put the onus on the disciples to prove it. But they never said that. What they said was, "Oh, well, the disciples stole the body." They're implicitly conceding that the tomb is empty. And then the **eyewitnesses**. We're lucky in the ancient world if we have one or two sources to confirm a fact. But for the conviction of the disciples that they had encountered the resurrected Christ, we have no fewer than nine ancient sources from inside and outside the New Testament, confirming and corroborating His appearances. The resurrection really confirms His identity of being the Son of God.