

# Being a Christian in an Antichrist World!

## Matthew 24:9-12, Acts 17

<sup>9</sup> "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. <sup>10</sup> And many will turn away from Me and betray and hate each other. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold..... Matthew 24:9-12

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. <sup>17</sup> He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and His resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods." Acts 17:16-18

### Two Trends Today

1. Believing all religions are basically the \_\_\_\_\_ . (pluralism)
2. Redefining tolerance as "\_\_\_\_\_."

Athens--the Cultural, Intellectual Capital of the World then and what was happening then is happening now!

## Three Things Paul Encountered that We Will Also

### 1. You Will Face \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Faith!

- **Superstitious Idolatry** (16, 22) <sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city..... <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious [superstitious] in every way, <sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. Acts 17:16,22-23

**An "idol" anything you love more, serve more, trust more, fear more than Almighty God!**

**The worst sin a person can commit is \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Materialism = Mammon   Sex = Aphrodite   Violence = Mars   Wisdom = Sophia**

<sup>24</sup> So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. <sup>25</sup> They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator Himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Romans 1:24-25

- **Self-Righteous Orthodoxy** (17) <sup>17</sup> He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. Acts 17:17
- **Sophisticated Philosophy** (18) <sup>18</sup> He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and His resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods." Acts 17:18

**Philo-sophy = love-wisdom   Philosophy has no solution for the Needs of the \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Epicureans**—Eat, drink and be merry for in the end we all die and there is no sense to it all!   **Pleasure**

**Stoics**—Life has no meaning, no choices so just sit back and endure it.   **Pride**

### 2. You Can Express \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Faith (17-21) <sup>19</sup> Then they took him to the high council of the city.

"Come and tell us about this new teaching," they said. <sup>20</sup> "You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it's all about." <sup>21</sup> (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.) <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, <sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. Acts 17:19-23

**He is the God of Creation!** <sup>24</sup> *“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn’t live in man-made temples, <sup>25</sup> and human hands can’t serve His needs—for He has no needs. He Himself gives life and breath to everything, and He satisfies every need.* Acts 17:24-25

**He is the God of Personal Love!** <sup>26</sup> *From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. <sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us.* Acts 17:26-27

**He is the God of Supernatural Salvation!** <sup>30</sup> *“God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now He commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to Him. <sup>31</sup> For He has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man He has appointed, and He proved to everyone who this is by raising Him from the dead.”* Acts 17:30-31

**You Should Expect \_\_\_\_\_ to Your Faith** <sup>32</sup> *When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.” <sup>33</sup> That ended Paul’s discussion with them, <sup>34</sup> **but some joined him and became believers.** Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17:32-34*

**3 Typical Responses > Derision > Delay > Decision**

**ANSWERS:**  
Same, Acceptance, Challenges, Idolatry, Human Heart, Confidence, Confidence

**Financial Update**  
Total Weekly Budget  
**\$ 12,857.00**  
Weekly Offering Received  
May 14, 2017  
**\$ 5,592.98**