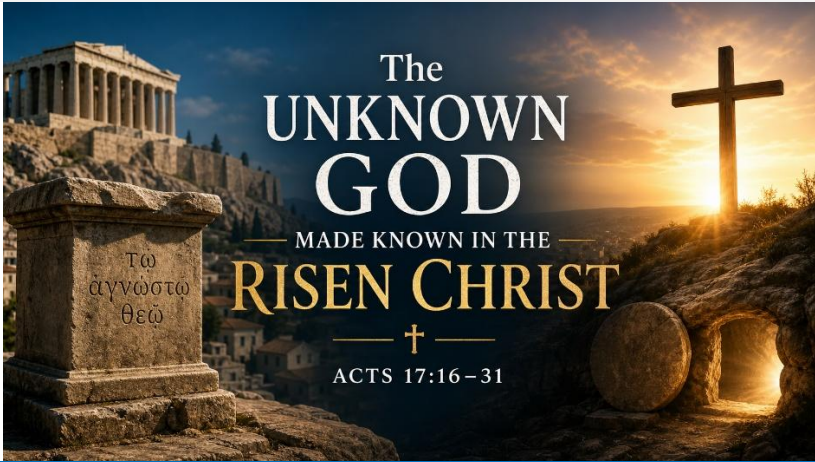


Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2026

Saturday, 5/9 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/10 at 9:00



Text: Acts 17:16-31 NAS 2020

By the Holy Spirit: Let's ➤understand and ➤apply the Bible in our lives!

Introduction: Dear friends: Do you worship the true God – ➤trusting in Him, ➤being genuine to Him, and ➤living in harmony with His word?

Paul worshiped the true God – **and it showed!** Let us ➤learn from Paul, ➤embrace the risen Christ, and ➤make Him known!

1. **Paul In Athens:**

- a. Waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him: ¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked [*irritated, upset*] within him as he observed that the city was full of idols. // Does it bother you when people are blind to God's truth?
- b. Making the best use of his time: ¹⁷ So he was reasoning [*having discussions*] **in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to**

be present. // Paul took advantage of the opportunities available to him. **Let's do the same!**

- c. A variety of people were present: ¹⁸ And some of the Epicurean [pleasure-seeking] and Stoic [self-disciplined] philosophers as well were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What could this scavenger of tidbits want to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities," —because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. // Paul spoke to ♦the pleasure-seeking and ♦the self-disciplined. Some mocked him, but others were interested in what he said.
- d. The Holy Spirit caused some to want more: ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus [Hill of Ares—the Greek god of war, aka, Mars Hill], saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean." ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) // Since Paul had something new to share, *most were willing to listen.* Today, the message of the Christ is not new, **but let us be certain that many need ♦our clear words and ♦the work of the Holy Spirit!**

2. **Sermon on Mars Hill:**

- a. Paul began where they were: ²² So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. // As Nicodemus began by *complimenting Jesus* (John 3:2), so Paul began by *complimenting the Athenians*.

- b. Paul caught their attention: ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. // They were wondering: Who is this UNKNOWN GOD? The Bible has a pattern of believers teaching others: ▶**Stephen** instructed Jewish leaders and ▶**Phillip** the Ethiopian eunuch. Since we all know the basics of ☞sin, ☞the need to repent, and ☞the way of salvation, **who is the Holy Spirit leading us to instruct?**
- c. Paul told of God's greatness: ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things [God needs **nothing** from us, but we need everything from Him]; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation [God determined **when** we would live and where we would live], ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us [**even though God is near, unbelievers cannot find Him** because they are in spiritual darkness]; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said [**without God, we would be dead, still, and non-existent. We rightly owe Him EVERYTHING**], 'For we also are His descendants [we came from Him].' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the

Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought.

- i. **OT people worshiped:** ▶ things they made (idols),
▶ things God made (sun, animals, creation), and
▶ invisible powers (wealth, status, control).
 - ii. **NT people worship:** ▶ money, ▶ power, ▶ sports,
▶ actors, ▶ houses, and ▶ cars!
- d. Paul identified **the what** and **the why**: ³⁰ So having overlooked the times of ignorance [which were *not* innocence], God is now proclaiming to mankind that **all people everywhere are to repent** [that's the what: here's the why], ³¹ because [God] has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.”
- i. Hearing God's truth is important: So, everyone should ***be serious and pay attention!***
 - ii. Jesus will be the judge: How do we know? ***God raised Him from the dead!***
 - iii. Repenting is crucial: Because the ***unrepentant ones exclude themselves from heaven!***
 - iv. What is repentance? Spirit worked ▶ contrition through the Law and ▶ faith through the Gospel!

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, we live spiritually and eternally because You have worked repentance in us – **TYSM!** Now, use us to kindly tell others about Jesus, *then lead them to repent!*

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