

3/22/20

Finding Our God Who is not Far

Acts 17:27

1. **Seek the Lord:** Context: Philosophers who were Epicureans (God may exist, but he is far away and disinterested) and Stoics (Severe fatalistic pantheists) have led Paul to Mar's Hill in Athens. On his way to his speaking engagement Paul passed the altar to "The unknown God". Paul uses that to get their attention and introduce the True God to them. Acts 17:24-27a:

Main point #1: The reason things are the way they are is so that we might seek him.

2. **Feel after Him:** Feeling after, to reach for, to grope. This is you trying to find the light switch in the dark. Acts 17:27-28:
 - A. He is not unknown. The Athenians guessed! The altar to the unknown god was their attempt to make up for their uncertainty stemming from ignorance. If you do not know, you have to guess. If you have to guess, you are not at rest.
 - We know God through Jesus Christ (Acts 17:31).
 - We know God through His Word.
 - B. He is not far. This point is made clearly in V. 27...though he be not far from every one of us.
 - We don't feel after things that are near, not far, things we believe are there, not things we think are not.

Main Point #2: We need to stop acting as if God was very far, hard to reach, only to be found outside the activities of our daily lives.

- We need to feel after him within the activities of our daily lives. Acts 17:28 (remember v.25?)

3. **Find Him:**

- A. Near: In my circumstances, decisions, discussions.
- B. In Christ—Imputed righteousness, not my own performance level.
- C. For who He is—this requires a willingness to obey His leading/Word.
- D. Do not stop until you can say, "I found Him."

Main Point #3: We need to seek Him by feeling after His continual presence/guidance by the Spirit of God and from principles from His Word.

Family Group Questions:

1. What does "God is not far" mean? Can you think of some ways that Christians sometimes act as if God was far? You?
2. What are some ways that we can "feel after him" in the decisions and conversations our daily lives?
3. Explain this statement: You are ignoring God if you do not know he is near.
4. How will you seek, feel after, and find God?