

THE IRREPRESSIBLE GOSPEL

A landscape photograph of a valley at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The mountains are dark and silhouetted against the bright light. A winding road is visible in the foreground on the left side.

**The Trip
That Changed
the World**

THE IRREPRESSIBLE GOSPEL



**Christ in the
Capital**
Acts 17:16-34



Black Sea

MACEDONIA

Rome

Thessalonica

Apollonia

Amphipolis

Philippi

Berea

ACHAIA

Corinth

Athens

Troas

Byzantium

BITHYNIA

MYSIA

TURKEY

GALATIA

ASIA

Antioch

Ephesus

Lystra

Tarsus

Antioch

SYRIA

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem



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Black Sea

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Apollonia
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SYRIA

CYPRUS

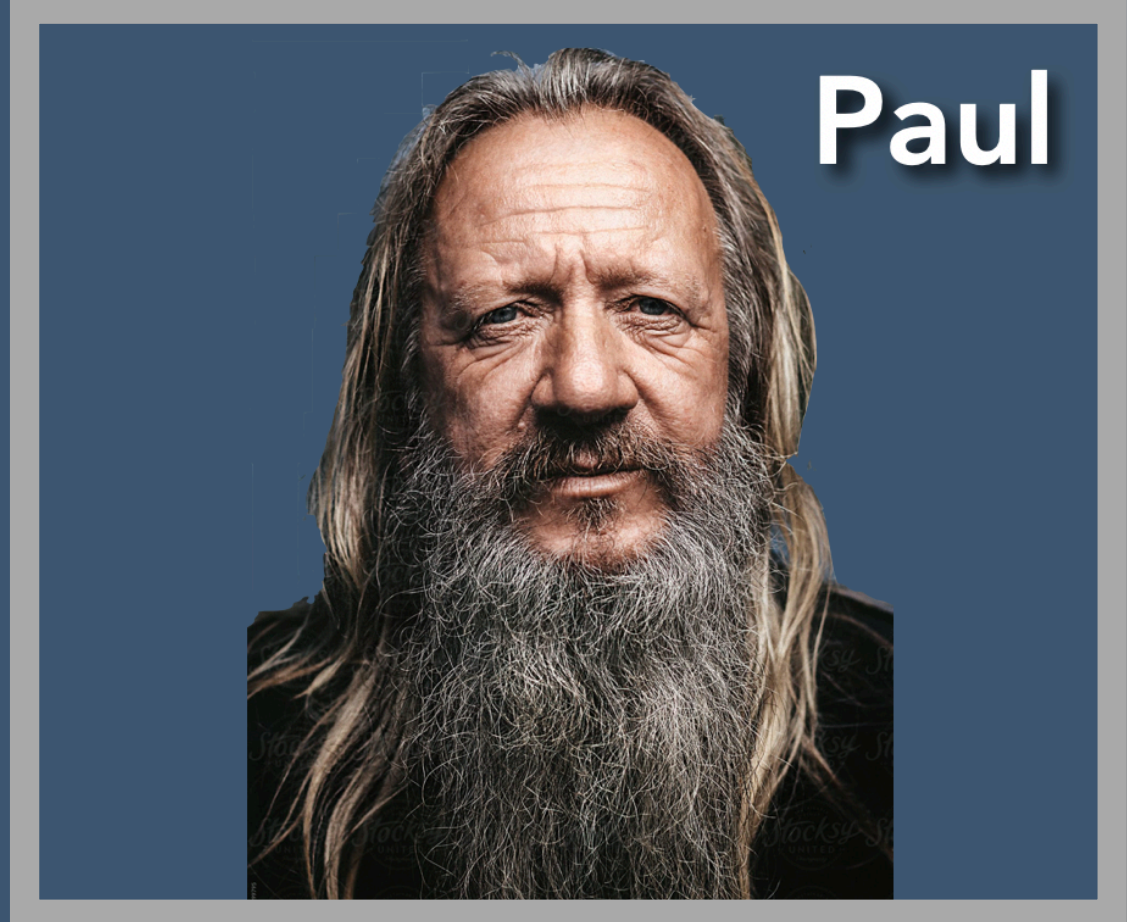
Jerusalem



Timothy




Dr. Luke

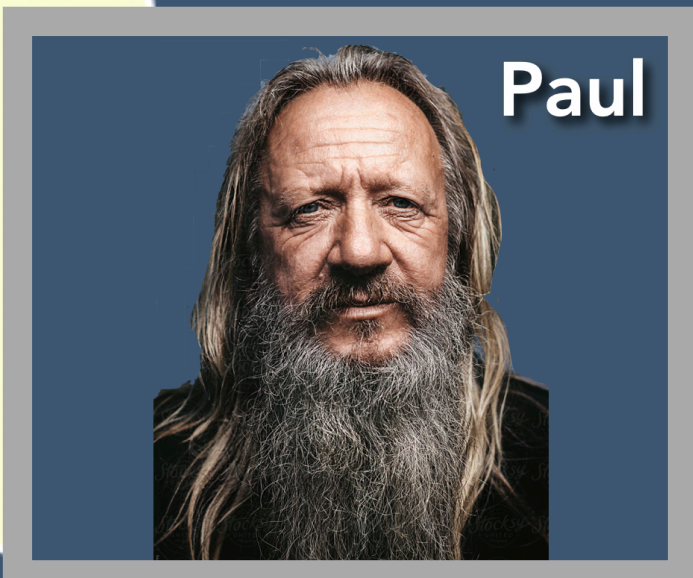


Paul



Silas

 **Rome**



MACEDONIA

Thessalonica
Berea
Apollonia
Amphipolis
Philippi

ACHAIA

Corinth
Athens

Troas

ASIA

Ephesus



MACEDONIA

Rome

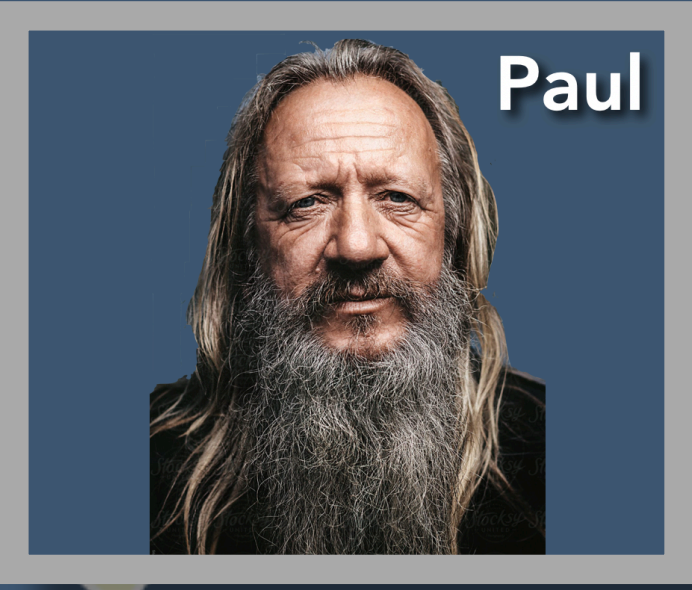


Thessalonica
Amphipolis
Philippi



Berea

ACHAIA



Troas

ASIA

Corinth

Athens

Ephesus



Acts 17:16-34

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:16-34

Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."

(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Acts 17:16-34

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To an unknown god.

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

Acts 17:16-34

“And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us. ‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

Acts 17:16-34

“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.”

Acts 17:16-34

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead,
some of them sneered, but others said,
“We want to hear you again on this subject.”

At that, Paul left the Council.

Some of the people became followers of Paul
and believed. Among them was Dionysius,
a member of the Areopagus, also a woman
named Damaris, and a number of others.

This is a NEW DAY.
Paul is taking the Gospel
to people who have
NO CLUE who God is.

Up to this point, Paul (& the other Apostles) have been preaching to people who understood creation, original sin, and were aware of Old Testament prophecies. They just missed The Messiah.

Here in Athens, they believed
all kinds of different things!
It was full of idols. And ideas.
It is said that... "In Athens,
it is easier to find a god
than another human being."

Acts 17:17-18

So he reasoned...in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods."

Epicurean:

Our earth & "the gods" are a long way from each other. So...live it up. The meaning of life is found in pleasure. Eat, drink & be merry!

Stoic:

Divinity (god) is in each person. It is "found" through Virtue (right living) and Reason (deep thinking). Get serious & follow the rules!

Athens was a mixed-up world.

**Idols (statues of "gods")
literally lined the streets.**

**And everyone had their own
view of how to live life.**

Sound familiar?

A "Meeting of the Areopagus"



- I see you're religious

- I found an altar



TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

I call this...

Ya Gotta Start Somewhere!

- ~ Creation.
- ~ Genesis.
- ~ Adam & Eve.
- ~ Relationship (adoption).
- ~ Repentance.
- ~ Jesus! Resurrection!



We live in a world that has
lost touch with the fact that
God is the creator—
and we are His offspring.

We live in a world that
doesn't believe in the
Scriptures because we are
bombarded by so many lies.

We live in Athens.

The Word of God is Truth
from beginning to end.
Creation. Genesis. Adam & Eve.

1) God created us to be in relationship with Him. He longs to adopt us as His children.

2) God commands all people everywhere to repent. He will judge the world with justice.

3) God has proven His love by sending Jesus, and raising Him from the dead. Jesus is alive.

Acts 17:32-34

“When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others...became followers—and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris.”

