

THE DAILY FLIP DEVOTIONAL

*Learning to live life upside down,
one day at a time*

Scripture

Acts 17:16-34

In Athens

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas).

²² 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. ²³ 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."

²⁴ "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.²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "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. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ 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."

³² 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."³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ 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.

Study Questions

Monday:

What stood out to you, or what was your take away from Pastor Kevin's message this weekend?

Tuesday:

How do you think your commitment to study the Bible daily might impact your family? Your community?

Wednesday:

What philosophies and pagan cultures or religions are you aware of today? Have you personally interacted with someone from a different philosophy or pagan religion? Describe this interaction.

Thursday:

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because so many wouldn't repent. Paul was greatly distressed about the state of Athens. How do you see your city?

Friday:

Paul presented a great picture of God to the crowd. He proclaimed him Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Ruler, Judge and Father (17:24-31). How did those listening respond to these descriptions (17:32)? Take time to thank God for how He fulfills these roles in your life.

TODAY @ THE FLIPSIDE

Road Trip *Mission to the Ends of the Earth*

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Reynolds

Notes: