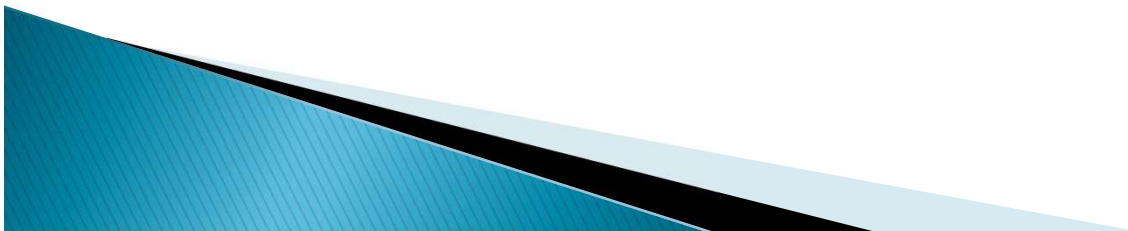



# Overview of the Second Journey

- ▶ Acts 15:41 – 18:22
- ▶ Distance: about 2800–3000 miles
- ▶ About 3 years: A.D. 50–53
  - Gallio (Acts 18:12) – proconsul in Corinth A.D. 51–52
- ▶ Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke
  - But “we” becomes “they” beginning in Thessalonica
- ▶ Timothy and Silas remain in Berea
  - Then come to Paul in Athens at his instruction
- ▶ Timothy sent from Athens to Thessalonica
- ▶ Timothy and Silas return to Paul in Corinth





# Second Preaching Trip

- ▶ Region: Syria
    - Paul & Silas
    - 15:35–41
    - Strengthening disciples
  - ▶ Region: Cilicia
    - Paul & Silas
    - 15:41
    - Strengthening disciples
  - ▶ Derbe in region of Lycaonia, province of Galatia
    - Paul & Silas
    - 16:1–5
    - Delivered decrees; churches increased in number
  - ▶ Lystra in region of Lycaonia, province of Galatia
    - Paul & Silas & Timothy
    - 16:1–5
    - Picked up Timothy and had him circumcised
    - Delivered decrees; churches strengthened and increased in number
- 



# Second Preaching Trip

- ▶ Region: Phrygia, province of Asia Minor
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy
  - 16:6
- ▶ Troas in region of Mysia in province of Asia Minor
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
  - 16:7, 8–11
- ▶ Island of Samothrace
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
  - 16:11
- ▶ Neapolis in province of Macedonia
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
  - 16:11
- ▶ Philippi in province of Macedonia
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
  - 16:12–40
  - Conversion of Lydia and her household
  - Spirit cast out of slave girl
  - Paul & Silas imprisoned
  - Conversion of Philippian jailor and his household
  - 2 Corinthians 11:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; Philippians 4:15



# Second Preaching Trip

- ▶ **Thessalonica in province of Macedonia**
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy
  - 17:1–9
  - Reasoning on the Sabbath in the synagogue
  - Some persuaded; great multitude of Greeks and not a few leading women believed
  - Persecution from the Jews
  - Paul & Silas sent away to Berea
  - 1 Thessalonians 1–2
- ▶ **Berea in province of Macedonia**
  - Paul & Silas & Timothy
  - More noble-minded than those in Thessalonica
  - Many believed, including Jews and Greeks
  - Jews came from Thessalonica to persecute
  - Brethren send Paul away, leaving Silas and Timothy behind
- ▶ **Athens**
  - Paul commands for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed
  - Reasoned in the synagogue and in the marketplace
  - Brought to Areopagus where he preached, telling them to turn from their idols – repent
  - Mixed response – some believed, some mocked, and some said they'll hear him later on the matter
  - Sends Timothy to Thessalonica – 1 Thessalonians 3:1–3

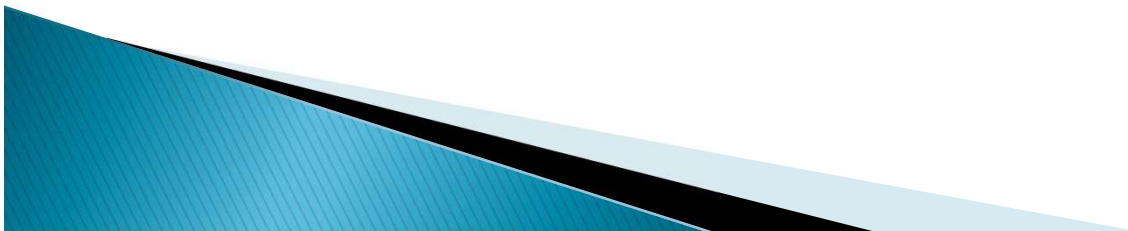






# Athens

- ▶ In province of Achaia
- ▶ Achaia = Roman name for Greece
- ▶ Corinth the capital and chief city of Achaia; Athens “retained its fame as a cultural center (Baker’s Bible Atlas, p.215)
- ▶ “easier to find a god than a man in Athens”
- ▶ More idols in Athens than all the rest of Greece



# Athens

- ▶ The city circled the base of the Acropolis – 500 ft. high hill with temples
- ▶ North of the acropolis was the agora, a marketplace where business was transacted and philosophy argued
- ▶ On the western approach to the Acropolis was Mars Hill, or the Areopagus
  - The city court met here
- ▶ On south side of the Acropolis was the theatre of Dionysus (a nature god of fruitfulness and vegetation, especially known as a god of wine and ecstasy)
- ▶ What did Paul see in Athens?
  - Men in need of the gospel





# Athens – Layout



## Areopagus, or Mars' Hill (Hill of Ares):

the Areopagus or rocky hill in Athens, north-west of the Acropolis, where the Athenian supreme tribunal and court of morals was held.

Mars: the Greek god of war



# Athens

- ▶ Paul's spirit provoked
  - Not the idea of anger!
  - Why?
  - Secular writers: “on every side there were altars, victims, temples, festivals”
- ▶ Therefore (verse 17)
  - He reasoned in the synagogue and in the marketplace
  - What might one do who is bothered or provoked by all the idolatry he sees?





# Athens a city of philosophers

## ▶ Epicureans

- Embraced the teachings of philosopher Epicurus
- Pleasure was the highest end or goal in living
- Believe matter is eternal; denied that the world was created by deity
- Denied the immortality of the soul
- Denied future punishment for deeds done in this life
- Denied the idea of gods exercising any providence in man's daily affairs

## ▶ Stoics

- Believed the world was created by Zeus (the Greek god of the sky and thunder, the king of all other gods and men)
- Believed all things governed by fate
- Believed self-denial contributes to the highest end in life; passions and affections are to be suppressed and restrained
- Taught apathy or indifference to either pleasure or pain
- Denied immortality of the soul
  - Some believed that the soul would be destroyed with the destruction of the universe
  - Others believed the soul would be absorbed into divine essence and become part of deity

## ▶ Philosophers try to explain the great question of life

- But ignoring divine will ends in failure!



# What to do with Paul?

- ▶ Some of the philosophers called Paul a “babblers” or “seed picker”
- ▶ Paul preached Jesus and the resurrection
  - To the philosophers, a proclaimer of foreign gods
- ▶ Paul brought to the Areopagus
  - The hill of the supreme court of Athens
  - Possibly curiosity, possibly some kind of preliminary investigation
- ▶ Why were they so eager to hear Paul? (vs.20–21)
  - Athens a center of art, philosophy, architecture, science, literature
  - “What’s news?” or “What’s newer?”
  - Some think old is obsolete and worth little; always want new; never satisfied



# Paul's sermon

- ▶ Compare to Lystra, 14:14–18
- ▶ Addressed them respectfully – vs. 22–23
- ▶ The sermon addressed idolatry, but it also opposed the doctrines of the Epicureans and the Stoics





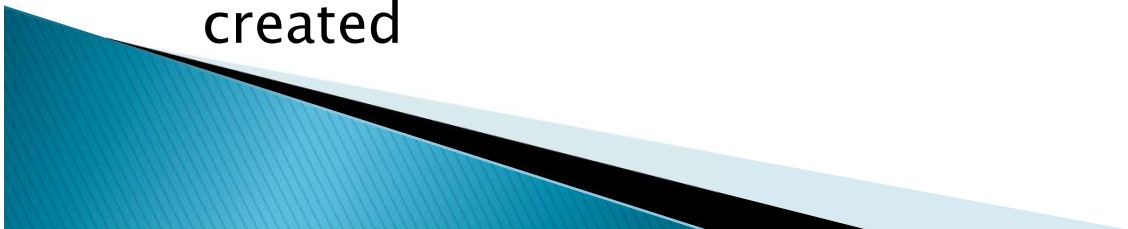
# Paul's sermon

- ▶ God is Creator of all
  - Made all things
  - Lord of heaven and earth
  - Dwells not in any one place
  - Not served by men's hands
  - The maker of the nations
- ▶ God is within the reach of all
  - In Him we live, move, and have our very being
  - We are His offspring or creation
  - Cast away then these idols and worship the true God
- ▶ God gives salvation to all
  - The days of ignorance are over
  - Men now are to repent and turn to Christ
  - The final judgment
- ▶ The response?
  - Some rejected
  - Some procrastinated
  - Some believed



# Paul's sermon

- ▶ God made the world and all things in it
  - Epicurean – matter eternal
  - Stoic – Zeus created
- ▶ God is Lord of heaven and earth...providence...Lord over all
  - Epicurean – gods aren't interested in everyday affairs
  - Stoic – fate governs everything
- ▶ God does not live in temples made with hands
- ▶ God is not served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since He Himself gives life and breath and all things
  - Pagans would leave food for their gods; believed they must do for their gods
  - But God is the source; He is not dependent on the life He created



# Paul's sermon

- ▶ God made from one pair every nation
  - It is said that Athenians had the idea that their own origin was different from other men's.
  - ...to live on all the face of the earth
    - God made it that way
- ▶ God has determined
  - Their appointed times
  - Boundaries of habitation
  - God rules in the kingdoms of men. Providence.
  - Not a denial of man's free will
- ▶ God has done all these things in verse 26 with reason:
  - So that men might seek God
  - Greatest good? Know God
    - Epicurean – pleasure
    - Stoic – apathy
    - Romans 1:19–20





# Paul's sermon

- ▶ God has done all these things in verse 26 with reason:
  - So that men might seek God
  - Grope for Him
    - Cannot fully know Him through creation
    - He is not far from us
      - Epicurean – gods too far off to be troubled by men's needs
- ▶ In God we live, move, and have our being
  - Paul was acquainted with their poetry: “For we also are His offspring”
- ▶ Offspring of deity
  - Children resemble their parents, so if we are not sticks and stones, then why would we think God is?



# Paul's sermon

- ▶ So what about all this?
- ▶ Repent!
  - Idolater, Epicurean and Stoic included
- ▶ Because...
  - Judgment is coming
    - God has appointed a day
    - All will be judged
    - Righteousness will be the standard
    - The judge is Jesus
    - God has given assurance of this by raising Jesus from the dead
- ▶ 3 responses to this sermon
  - Some believed, including an Areopagite
  - Some mocked
  - Some procrastinated

