

***Sermon Title:* "MEETING AT MAR'S HILL"**

Date: October 29, 2023 - Acts 17:22-34

Central Idea: God provides launching pads for the gospel, but we must use the opportunities. Are you alert to opportunities to share Christ?

Introduction: Paul's address in Athens is not a defense of the Christian faith. His speech is both a challenge to pagan religion and a proclamation of the gospel. Paul faced an audience that differed from those in the synagogue worship services. Standing before the Athenian philosophers, he could not assume that they had any knowledge of the scripture or of Jesus. Paul began where they were. He recognized their religious interest, but he did not admit that this religious interest was adequate. In fact, he pointed out that it was inadequate.

I. The Gospel Declared vv. 22-28

1. Doctrine of God vv. 22-23

2. Doctrine of Creation vv. 24-28

II. The Gospel Proclaimed vv. 29-31

1. In Relation to the Past vv. 29-30a

2. In Relation to the Present v. 30b

3. In Relation to the Future v. 31

III. The Gospel Received vv. 32-34

1. Some Sneered v. 32a

2. Some Delayed vv. 32b-33

3. Some Believed v. 34

Conclusion: In a sense, Paul's encounter with the sophisticated Athenians in the middle of the first century is representative of the church's mission to the secular world of today. Should we consider Paul's mission in Athens a failure? Certainly not! The church has a duty to proclaim the gospel in every area of life and to call people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Only God can deliver His children from apathy!