

Paul in Athens

(based on Acts 17:22-31)

Paul, a strong believer in Jesus Christ, was often in trouble. Not just little arguments either. He was stoned in Lystra and left for dead. He was put in prison in Philippi. He had to leave Thessalonica when it was dark so his enemies wouldn't see him. Those same enemies tracked him down in Beroea and he escaped to Athens.

Now Paul is waiting in Athens for two friends, Silas and Timothy, to join him.

But Paul just couldn't stay out of trouble. As he walked around the city of Athens, he saw many statues of gods and goddesses, idols. They were all over!



He talked about this in the synagogue where followers of God worshiped. He talked about this in the marketplace to anyone who would listen.

Before long, he had attracted the attention of some educated people who did not worship Paul's God. They didn't know what he was talking about, and they were curious. The people of Athens liked to know about the newest thing, and this seemed like the newest thing. So they took Paul to Mars Hill where the council of Athens met.

Paul stood tall before the council and said, "People of Athens, I can tell that you are a religious people because you have many statues of gods and goddesses. I even saw one statue that was to an unknown god. I know about that god. This is the God I worship, the creator of the world and everything in it. This God is the Lord of heaven and earth!"

Paul also told them about Jesus and how he came back to life. Some people thought Paul was a little crazy and made fun of him. But others listened carefully and said, "We want to hear more about this another time." Still others believed what Paul said and became believers in God and Jesus Christ.

A Psalm of Praise

The book of Psalms in the Old Testament of the Bible has many poems and prayers that praise God for the wonderful “world and everything in it” as Paul told the people in Athens.

Think about all the wonderful parts of creation that you have seen. Then write a psalm of praise for God’s creation. Fill in the blanks below to get you started.



God, your world is so wonderful!

Everywhere I look I see amazing things.

You make _____.

You created _____.

You planned _____.

I will sing thanks to you every day and every night.

Praise to Creator God!