

ACTS DEVOTIONAL CHAPTER 17 THE UNKNOWN GOD

“The soul hardly ever realizes it, but whether he is a believer or not, his loneliness is really a homesickness for God.” Hubert van Zeller

SCRIPTURE: “Paul said, ‘Men of Athens! I found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you.’ Acts 17:22–23

“This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” John 17:3

REFLECTION: Paul made the true God known to the Athenians by revealing him as their Creator: who cared about their needs (vs. 24, 25), was involved and interested in their lives (vs. 26), was strategically working to woo them to Himself, was near to them (vs. 27), and was their patient Father (vs. 29–30). He gave them just a taste of the gospel, and those who were hungry asked to hear more.

PRAYER:

Lord, empower me to share with those around me the good news—that they can know the God who made and cares about them. May the unknown God become their Savior and their home.

“We do not need to go ‘somewhere’ to find God, any more than the fish needs to soar to find the ocean or the eagle to plunge to find the air.” Rufus Jones

SCRIPTURE: “God made men and determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. He did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:26–28

“Lord, You know me. You understand my thoughts, scrutinize my path, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Behind and before me, You lay Your hand on me.” Psalm 139:1–5

ACTIVITY: God is at work in the life of every person, even though they may not realize it and may call His working “coincidence.” Ask God for discerning eyes to see where He has been/is involved in the lives of those around you. Ask for an opportunity and wise words to point out His interest in them. Determine to stop thinking “coincidence” and start thinking “God”!

PRAYER:

God, help me see and point out Your goodness and nearness to those who don’t yet know how much You want them. Make “coincidences” happen in their lives. May they begin to see Your desire to be found and known by them.