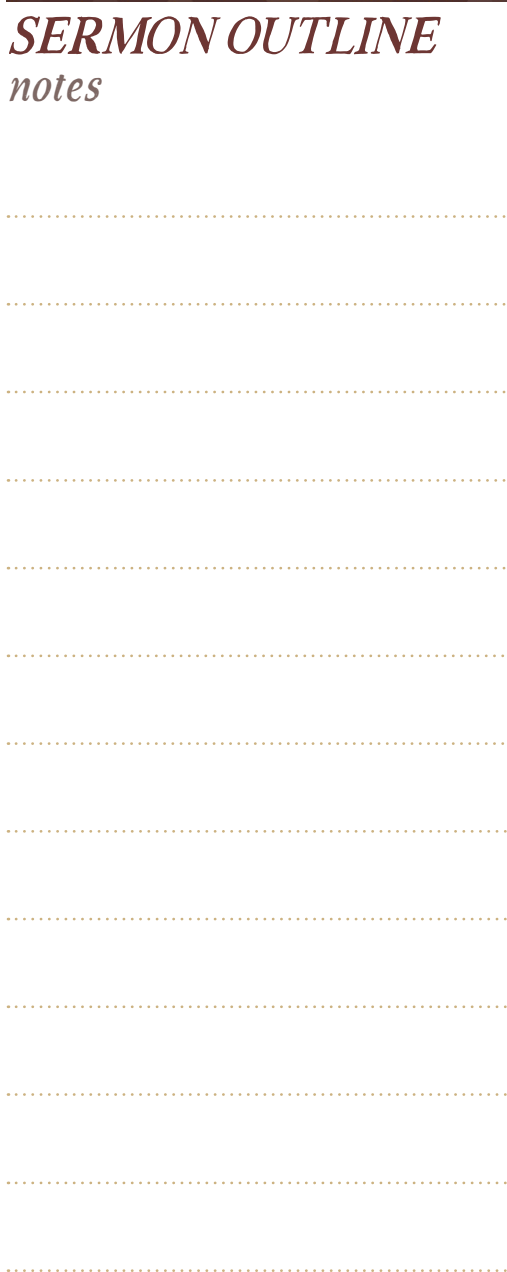




- A. God commands all people everywhere to repent (**Acts 17:30-31**)
- B. The people respond with a mixture of mockery, intrigue, and belief. (**Acts 17:32-34**)

Acts 17:22-34

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,²⁸ for

"In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."³³ So Paul went out from their midst.³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

? KIDS

1. Why did the apostle Paul start talking about Jesus and the resurrection?

? KIDS+STUDENTS

2. What is the Creator/creature distinction? Why does Paul ground his speech with that doctrine?
3. What is a "oneist" and "twoist" worldview? What are some examples of "oneist" worldviews?

? STUDENTS

4. What are some specific implications about God and humanity that flow out of the Creator/creature distinction? What characteristics of God are necessary for him to be the Creator? What characteristics of humanity are necessary to us as creatures?