

THE UNKNOWN GOD

ACTS 17: 16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because **he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.**

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak?"

20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean."

21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.** Therefore, **the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:**

24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent,**

31 because **He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."**

Are we like the Athenians of Greece in the Apostle Paul's time just erecting a religious idol in our hearts to the "Unknown God"? (**Acts 17:22-23**) "Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.** Therefore, **the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:."**" Paul then went on to speak to them of God sending His Son Jesus Christ of Nazareth to die for their sins and

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His resurrection from the dead and that God will judge the people of this world by the righteousness of His Son whom He has ordained.

I am afraid that too many religious people today are like these folks of Athens. They believe in, sacrifice to and worship a God and even in Christianity a Jesus that **they do not know**. They call him God, Father, Lord and go through a lot of religious exercises but He is not real and is like a dead idol standing around, empty and void of life. He has eyes but cannot see, Ears but he cannot hear and a mouth but he cannot speak. So they have to make up his sayings or have someone else do that for them. He is not real; he is not alive so that they can have a relationship with him; he is especially not a real father or a real friend. He is for the most part just a dead religious belief, a figment of their imagination, a being or a something that really does not live with them and provide for them any real joy and peace. He does not have a real place in their daily lives and He is not one who is a real comforter, a real counselor, a real advisor in the affairs of their lives. OH! HOW can I express it so that we can see? My God is Jesus Christ in the flesh, a really great FRIEND FOR LIFE AND ALL ETERNITY; A very special and personal God and my Father with whom I have daily fellowship.

Millions in this world of ours believe in and speak of God that they just **do not know**. The Jews, the Muslims and the Christians all say that they believe in the one true God and that we all worship the one true God. They believe that He exists, and in their traditional religious ways more or less serve Him and worship Him in ignorance. Most all religions of this world (even the Christian religion) speak of a GOD. However for the most part they do not have a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him and **do not KNOW HIM** because they do not Know His Uniquely Begotten Son WHO HE SENT in to this World to save us all. They are slaves to their religions and traditions. Jesus Christ said, "*If you continue in MY WORD, then are you my disciples indeed and you shall KNOW THE TRUTH and the TRUTH will set you FREE.*" (St John 8:31-32) Most everyone can talk about GOD. Just try talking to folks about Jesus Christ and see what happens. This world and it's so called god's are ANTI-CHRIST. Wake up folks; this is why true Christians are hated, persecuted and ridiculed all over this world.

Why do you think it is that Christianity is persecuted all over the world? Many major religions and most governmental authorities do not want the Bible read and the name of Jesus Christ mentioned. Even in the United States the Bible is thrown out of our schools and it seems that every religion and cult can be taught and promoted but Christianity cannot. This ought to tell us something. The major difference between Christianity and other religions is Jesus Christ. The whole world system of things is Anti-Christ not anti-God. I understand that a couple of years ago one of the leaders of the United Nations made a statement like, "If the Christian religion would only get rid of the name of Christ then we could all get along better."

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The cute saying listed here has been going around for some time now. For the most part we just removed the word God and put in Jesus Christ and sent it out via e-mail.

Without JESUS CHRIST, our week would be: Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday & Shatterday.
If you are not ashamed of JESUS CHRIST, pass it on.
Remember seven days WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST makes One WEAK!!

Please remember we have to be careful about using the word GOD because there are so many concepts of HIM, millions DO NOT KNOW THE ONE TRUE GOD. JESUS CHRIST WAS GOD IN THE FLESH. HE is the only one SENT DIRECTLY FROM GOD to reveal HIMSELF and HIS Love to this world. He is the ONLY MAN ordained of God WHO could say, "I am the Way, I am the Truth and I am the Life. No one comes to the FATHER but by ME." (St John 14:6)

The Word of God (the Bible) does not say believe in God, it does say believe God. The last poll I saw stated that over eighty percent of Americans believe in Christ. I believe that the figure is even greater for those who believe in God. Most all the people of the world believe in a god and worship their god in some religious manner or another. There is a vast and very important difference in "believing in God" and "Believing God". The Bible teaches that even the devils believe in God and tremble. (James 2:19) God says in His word, "*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.*"¹⁰*He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.*"¹¹*And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*"¹²*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*"¹³*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*" (1 John 5:9-13)

To believe in someone is to believe that they exist. One who believes in God believes that He is, that He exists, that He is alive or real. The devil and his demons believe in this manner. On the other hand to believe someone is to believe what they say, that is, I believe that what God says is the absolute Truth. I put my faith or trust in what He says. A true believer believes Gods word and His testimony of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. One, who believes God, depends and relies upon Him and what He says. God is faithful, trustworthy and truthful I put my trust in what He says of Himself and His Only or uniquely begotten Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The Word of God is filled with examples of this difference in both the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament in much of its history of the nation of Israel and most

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of the prophets of God speaks over and over again **about Israel's believe in God but their unbelief or disbelief in what He said**. They like millions of people today believed in God but did not depend or rely upon His Word. Even in the New Testament on several occasions the Apostle Paul mentions that the Nation of Israel as an example of those who could not enter into Gods rest and were overthrown in the wilderness **because they would not believe what God said**. (**Hebrews** chapter 3 and 4). (**Heb 3**: ¹⁷*Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?* ¹⁸*And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?* ¹⁹**So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**) And (**Heb 4**:²*For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it* ⁴*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*) **They are again used as an example of what not to do** in the book of **Romans** at the end of chapter nine (9) and the beginning of chapter ten (10). They **would not believe Gods testimony of Christ's Righteousness** and therefore went about trying to establish their own righteousness and a right standing with God through their works of the Law. They missed out and fell into horrible judgments of God, just as He said repeatedly they would if they did not obey His word. (**Rom 9**: ³⁰*What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;* ³¹*but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.* ³²*Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, **by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.*** ³³*As it is written: ("Behold, **I lay in Zion** a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes **on Him** will not be put to shame.") (**Isaiah 8:14, 28:16**)*

Even among many Christians today they do not BELIEVE GOD and ALL HIS WORD. Many Christians today know little or nothing about Gods Word the Bible. Many only know what **they want to know** and hear **what they want to hear**, which for the most part has to do with a positive attitude and scriptures that bring them prosperity and all the benefits of this world. The Apostle Paul warned that this is exactly what would happen in the Last Days, i.e. (the end of Time). **"1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."** (2 Timothy.4)

Dear Father in Heaven, our God please have mercy upon us all that we may come to KNOW YOU and to enjoy the wonders of your presence in our lives. May all of your children experience your peace, your comfort, your provisions in these days and times in which we live and escape the powers of darkness and the Evil one with his deceit. Thank you Father for the gift of your eternal life through your precious son the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord and Our Saviour. In Jesus name Amen!