

MESSAGE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT // SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

Pastor Terry Feix presented the apostle Paul's message to those in Athens from the book of Acts, where he acknowledged their religiosity and worship of idols and gods. They worshiped so many gods in fact, they didn't want to leave one out, and so they included an altar to "An Unknown God." Paul went on to explain to them who this God is.

The apostle Paul expressed it this way:

"God did this so they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:27-31).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. What is the modern version of the agora—the public square where ideas are exchanged and evaluated?
2. What are the pros and cons of joining that public conversation?
3. What are the "holes in the heart" that you see in the people you know?
4. What are some common beliefs people cling to, hoping for happiness?
5. How is following Christ different than other ways people choose to find meaning or purpose in life?
6. What is the difference between God judging the world through Christ, and those who follow Jesus judging others? How does this affect how you participate in the public conversations?
7. How can we pray for each other?

PRAYER

Ask God to fill you with his truth and grace in a way that helps you proclaim the gospel to those you engage in conversation. Ask him to take the burden of judgment from you as it belongs to him, and to share his message in ways to help people identify the holes in their heart *"so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us"* (Acts 17:27).