

## **Nations Are Meant to Seek God**

### **Acts 17:24-27**

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; NKJV

232 years old and she is starting to show signs of her age. When we read many of the original documents of this nation we cannot but be amazed at the place that God had in them. In many of those documents not only God was mentioned but our Savior Jesus Christ. During the time of the Revolutionary War our founders sought God for guidance and protection.

But today we are multi-cultural, we are polytheistic. We have a theme which says our diversity makes us strong. But are we stronger today than in 1776. Then we were out numbered and out gunned but we prevailed. We had better hang on to our military might, it is one of the few things we have going for us today. We have left off seeking God. We don't need Him any more. As one theologian said, our Christianity today is a mile wide and an inch deep. It covers everything and means nothing to us.

But you see from this passage that God's purpose in conducting the affairs of the world is not to allow us leisure but to prod us to seek Him. He works among the nations. He tears one down and brings another up. For the purpose that they might seek Him. And grope for Him and eventually find Him.

Let us look at this passage this morning:

- I. Who was Paul preaching to?
  - A. The Athenians, the great philosophers of all time.
  - B. The Athenians, a very religious group.
  - C. The Athenians who supported democracy and freedom, at least for some.
- II. What is he telling them?
  - A. He is telling them that God is the creator of all we see.
    1. Acts 17: 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it
  - B. He is telling them that God is absolutely Sovereign.
    1. V-24 since He is Lord of heaven and earth,
  - C. That God is outside of creation
    1. V-24 does not dwell in temples made with hands.

- D. That God is independent and we are dependent upon him the our life.
    - 1. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
  - E. We all have a common heritage.
    - 1. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,
  - F. He governs over the nations.
    - 1. V-26 and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,
- III. What is to be our response?
- A. We should seek Him.
    - 1. Not only individually but as a nation as well.
    - 2. Although our seeking is sometimes like groping.
      - a. Like a blind man feeling his way in unfamiliar places.
  - B. That we should find Him.
    - 1. American love to seek God as long as they do not find Him.
      - a. You see if they find Him it means their life will never be the same.
      - b. As long as they can continue to pursue Him, they are fine.
    - 2. Over two hundred years ago, our founding fathers of this nation, not only pursued God but they found Him and set up a government based on a nation of people that had found God.
      - a. But now we embrace anything but God.
      - b. We have practically drove Him from the public square.
      - c. And even our preachers are afraid to proclaim what God expects to a nation that no longer wants to hear that.
      - d. They want preachers to tell them that God loves them.
      - e. Not to tell them what God expects of them in their sex lives.
      - f. Not to tell them what they should do with their money.
      - g. Yes we are great at seeking God but just not to good at finding Him.
      - h. But then we seek God like a four year old looks for his shoes.