NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

ACTS – PART SEVEN

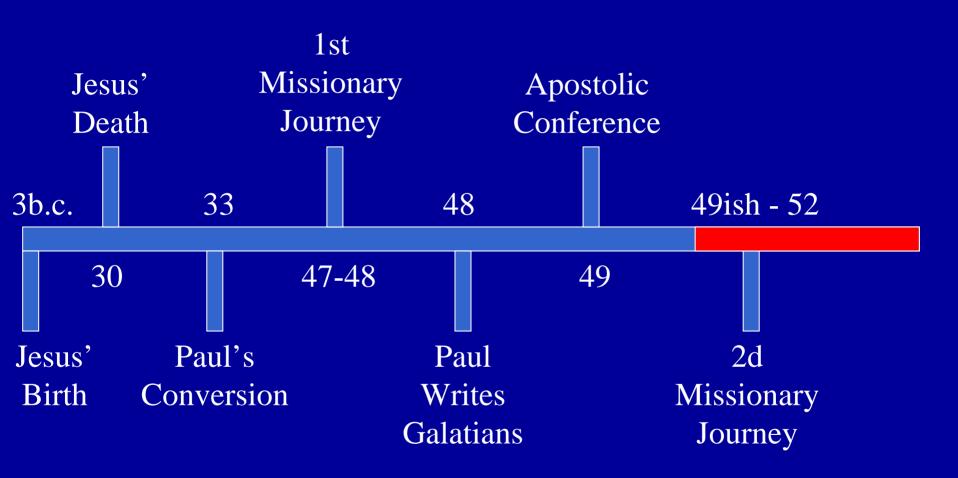
Lesson 33

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Background

- Flow of Luke / Acts
- Uniqueness of Missionary Journey
- Recap Second Journey
 - Companions: Timothy, Silas, ~Luke





Athens

- History
 - Athena
 - Democracy
 - Theater
 - Philosophy
 - Roman Conquest 146 b.c.

Athens - Philosophy

- Socrates (469ish 399 b.c.)
 - A Rambling Philosopher
 - Objective Truth, Beauty, Justice Known Innately
 - Education Teaches Morality (Rediscovering)
 - Morality Brings Happiness
 - Influential Over Youth

Athens - Philosophy

- Socrates Put to Death
- Prize Student Plato (c. 427 347 b.c.)
 - Many Extant Works
 - Absolute Form Of Good
 - Permanence of Soul
 - Theory of Forms
 - Popular in Early Christianity

Athens -Philosophy

- Plato's Prize Pupil ---
- Aristotle (c. 384 322 b.c.)
- School of Study Lyceum (T.T.U.!)
- Scientific Observation Not Platonic Forms

Athens - Philosophy

- Plato's Prize Student -- Not Epicurus!
- Epicurus (341 271 b.c.)

Epicurus

- Core Problem : Fear of Death
 - Reason for Materialism
 - Reason for Power Grabs
 - Reason for Vanity
 - Reason For Distractive Lifestyle

Stoics

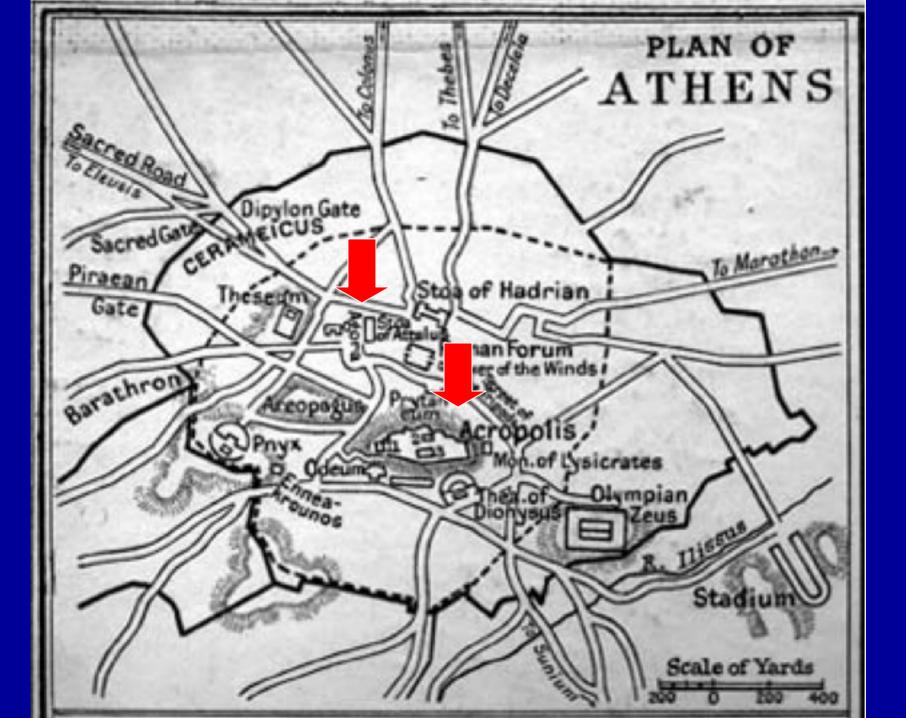
- Competitive Philosophy
- Senses Yes, but With Reason!
- Ultimate Force -World's Spirit
- Predetermined Choices
- Reason the Ultimate Goal

Epicurus

- Core Problem: Fear of Death
- How Answer?
 - Use Your Senses!
 - Sight, Hear, Taste, Smell, Feel Reliable!
- Senses Teach:
 - Gods Not Involved in World
 - No Afterlife
 - Pleasure the Ultimate Goal ("Hedonism")

Paul Into Athens

- Alone
- Synagogues
- Agora





Acts 17

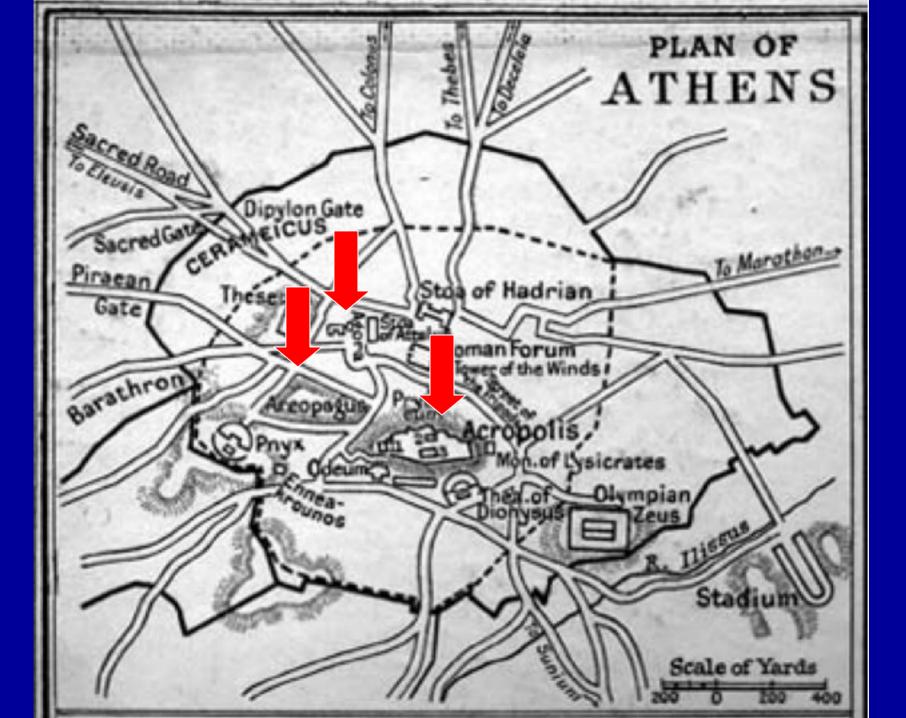
"While Paul was waiting for them in Athens ... he reasoned in the synagogue ... as well as in the agora (marketplace) day by day with those who happened to be there."

Acts 17

"A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?"

Acts 17

"They took him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears and we want to know what they mean!"





The Hook:

• Religious ... But About the Unknown God...

Epicureans

- Gods Detached / Man Detached
- Believe Your Senses
- Live For Pleasure
- Death Dissolves Life and Atoms

Stoics

- Align With Reason (logos) of Universe
- Pursue With Disinterest
- Use Senses and Reason

Athens

- God Not Detached Creator / Sustainer
- Senses And Reason With Revelation
- Purpose To Find God
- Afterlife Judgment With One Resurrected

Poets

- Epimenides (600 bc)
- "In thee we live and are moved, and have our being"
- Aratus (315-240 bc)
- "In every way we have all to do with Zeus, for we are truly his offspring."

- Paul
- "For in him we live and move and have our being"
- "As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring'"

 (17:28)

Athens

• A number of believers including Damaris of the Areopagus



Corinth

- 18 months
- Datable because
 - Aquila & Priscilla
 - Gallio Proconsul of Achaia
- Letters to Thessalonians
- Great Success



Points For Home

- Life Has Purpose
- Find God
- Embrace God
- Hope in God