

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 17 16-34



Come and listen all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
Psalm 66:14

Praising:

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance
he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Reading:

Acts 17:16-34
Athens: a city full of idols

It seems the Athenians at this time were famous for their curiosity. The Areopagus where Paul states his case is either the formal council, or the hill itself west of the Acropolis. The altar to an unknown god gives Paul the opening he needs, although he is careful to anchor the coming of Jesus in the family history of Adam and the Jews. The plethora of different deities fashioned in all

sorts of different materials, reveals a people and mindset obsessed with gods and with pleasing them. Paul points to the resurrection of Jesus as offering a completely new and, by comparison, far more deserving object of worship. Paul is emerging as the first Christian philosopher and while some accept what he is saying, others are more cynical. Still others reserve the right to re-visit the question.

Listening:

Praying:

In a world of false gods, Lord keep us faithful to you

- not distracted by the glittering prizes of this life: success, wealth and celebrity
- unimpressed by the objects of other people's affection: home, possessions and property
- indifferent to the goals which drive so many: comfort, leisure and self-preservation

Father: by the beauty of your Son, draw my eye away from the idols all around me, especially the things I tell myself are harmless which have all the power to control and own me.
Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 08 June 2016