

ULTIMATE INCLUSIVENESS

There are many “perfections” of God. Because God is the ultimate in power and because He operates outside of time, we are truly privileged to be *included* in His work - even in His heart. When Paul takes center stage in Athens he brings the message of God’s incredible inclusion of mankind into His plans.

Acts 17.22-23

So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17.24-25

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

Acts 17.26-27

and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Acts 17.28-29

for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ “Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

Acts 17.30-31

“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

What does everyone receive from God the Father?

How can God be known? Why do you think there are so many “gods” in the human family?

What does God need from us?

What is the remedy for what ails the heart of man?

How has God chosen to articulate, exemplify, and prove His great heart to include mankind.

This is so cool.

Why do you think this passage is such a watershed teaching?