

## Weekly Word May 14

Marion Victory

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:12-22

John 14:15-21

In John's reading, we open up with Jesus saying, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

In Psalm 66, the Psalmist tells of God's works and awesome doings and how God the Creator of all things, observes us AND hears us!

The reading in 1 Peter echoes these words; For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears *are open* to their prayers. But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.

For me, it's the reading in Acts that speaks to my heart this morning.

Paul has been given the opportunity to speak to the men of Athens, who seem to be a people who want to make sure they don't offend anyone and worship everything. Does that sound familiar?

That sounds so much like today with our 'all-things' acceptable mentality.

However, Paul uses common ground to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**THE UNKNOWN GOD**

Paul prepared himself by taking the time to walk around the city and get familiar with the surroundings of this people. In other words, he gets to know them where they are, and uses what's known to them or what they can perceive.

(In verse 16 the scripture says His spirit was provoked (not offended) by what he was seeing.) He was seeing with eyes of grace and I'm sure in prayer asking God, how he should address these people.

Our flesh often times, gets offended because we know what's right or wrong. Our hearts have been changed by the WORD of GOD and our minds are being renewed. Our flesh wants to judge.

Paul took the time to perceive, he allowed God to open the way, and used familiar things to share Christ.

Verse 32 says, some mocked, others wanted to hear more on this matter.

Verse 33 it seems this verse is saying, Paul said what he had to say and departed.

The end result is always up to God. There are hearts that are ready and there are hearts of stone. Only God knows the heart.

Verse 34 **Some** men *joined and believed*. Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris was among them.

Dionysius was a judge at the Areopagus court and became the first Bishop of Athens.

The woman named Damaris they have said, may have been his wife.

“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

*Jesus*

Mark 12:29-31