

## Know the True God

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and do not live in temples build by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, ‘we are his offspring’.”*

*Acts 17:24-28*

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Indeed He gives me the joy to write to you about the Good News that all of us are longing to know and to follow; even to you who know about God’s grace that is in Christ Jesus our Lord, you are eager to know more and be nourished with increasing measure of faith that is based on sound words of truth.

The above passage from the Bible was imparted by the Apostle Paul when he visited the city of Athens. He was there for a short time while waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him. As Paul was walking around the city he was greatly distressed to see the place full of idols.

An idol is a statue or an image made by man of a design and skill. The idol could be an image of a man or a woman or any living creature like a bird or animal. It is a man-made object made of stone, metal, wood, silver, gold, etc. People believed that an idol has spiritual divine power or influence in the form of giving blessings or curses. In response to this the people who worship idols are under the authority of such idols and the religion that it represents.

1. **Idol worshipers are religious people:** This is what Paul noticed when he was in the city of Athens. He told them: **“Man of Athens, I see that in every way you are religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship...”** (Acts 17:22-23) Being religious means wanting to be near God and trying to please God; they fear God but they don’t know who He really is and they don’t know the truth.
2. **Idol worshipers worship false god:** The religions that idols belong to; dictate false teachings and false rules. The religious people are eager to know and learn, but as the word of God says: **“They are all senseless and foolish, they are taught by worthless wooden idols.”** To every man who worships an idol God is unknown to him. Paul had noticed in Athens that there was even an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

When God created man He created Him in His own image, and He commanded them: **“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will**

**surely die.”** But man disobeyed and had fallen into sin. Since then a big distance was created between man and God. And over those years, from the day after Adam’s fall till now, man is trying to bridge the gap or the distance in order to reach God. By man’s instinct he knows that there is God that he should worship, and from that desire he embraces religions and idols. Through religion he tries to define God and reach God. But all of man’s effort to reach God are failures and lead many people to worship nonliving gods. The imaginations and teachings of religions have ended the people to worship images, pictures, animals, created beings, and different kinds of idols made by human hands. The people become like fools worshipping a false god.

3. **Idol worshipers are slave to idols:** The idol worship is a false way to reach the true God. In fact idolatry makes people suffer because they are obliged to do certain things and rituals taught by men. Many people travel long distances and spend much money just to worship an idol because the people think that god can do something for them or by doing the ritual they would receive blessing.

**“Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you:”** God is the Creator of everything. God lives in heaven and man lives on earth. In spite of man’s disobedience God is still concerned about him. **“God demonstrates His love for us that while we are still sinners, Christ died for us.”** God sent His Son Jesus into the world. Jesus took man’s sin and He received the punishment for man’s disobedience when He died on the cross. He was buried, yet raised from death on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him. **“God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being.”**

Jesus Christ is the way to reach God as He declared, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:6) Once you believe in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God will live in you. **“Don’t you know that you yourself are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”** (1 Corinthians 3:16) The gods that are in the form of idols did not make the heaven and the earth. They are dead and they will vanish from the earth. But the Lord Jesus is the true God, and He is the living God who lives forever and ever.

**My dear and beloved:** The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back soon to judge the world. The message to you today is to wake you up; it is now the time for you to turn away from all idols, the images and the human-made gods. And with all your heart and mind seek the true and the living God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Likewise, go and tell others about Him.

**My Prayer:** *“Heavenly Father, I thank you that You have loved me so much, that You sent Jesus to save me from sin and to give me eternal life. Forgive me, Lord, for worshipping other gods. Help me to know you more so that I could worship You in Spirit and in truth. Teach me your ways and help me to follow you forever. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*