

# **“The Dome Effect”**

## **Acts 17:22-34**

### **April 3 & 4, 2010**

**Big Idea:** *Our spiritual perception can keep us from seeking, reaching out for and finding God.*

#### WHY WE FEEL DISTANT FROM GOD

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - *You have no idea of my past. Mark 16:7*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - *I still have questions. John 20:24-29*
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - *I can't see God. John 9:1-3*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - *I've gone too far and it's been too long. Luke 7:37-39*
5. \_\_\_\_\_ - *I don't need anyone. Acts 17:18-21, 2 Chron. 16:12, 1 Peter 5:5*

#### Observations About This Group of People

They were \_\_\_\_\_, *they just didn't know Christ. vs. 22*  
*“Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.”*

They knew they were \_\_\_\_\_, *they just didn't know what. Vs. 23*  
*“I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”*

Their ability to see God was impacted by their \_\_\_\_\_. Vs. 27

#### GREAT NEWS ABOUT GOD!

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 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. 26 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. 27 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. 28 ‘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*

#### **GOD IS HUGE, MIGHTY AND IN CONTROL**

**BUT** that doesn't mean He is \_\_\_\_\_.

**BUT** that doesn't mean He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.

**BUT** that doesn't mean He \_\_\_\_\_.

#### GOD'S MOVE TOWARD YOU

*Jesus is God in the flesh, He really lived. John 1:1-14, Col. 2:9-10*  
*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...”*

*Jesus died for your sins on the cross. Romans 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21*  
*“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

*Jesus rose from the dead as the proof and power. Eph. 1:19-22, Romans 5:6-11*  
*“When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God.” Rom. 5:6 NCV*

*"If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of His Son, now that we're at our best, just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of His resurrection life!" vs. 10 Message*

*Jesus is in heaven and intercedes for you before the Father. Heb. 1:1-3*

*Jesus is coming again some day...are you ready? Acts 17:31*

### **HOW DO WE COME NEAR TO GOD?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Him.** Matt. 5:6

*Heb. 11:6 "...anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **for Him.** John 1:12

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..."*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Him.** Acts 26:17-18

*Acts 3:19 "Now it's time to change your ways! Turn to face God so He can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you." Message*

*Acts 17:30-31 "God overlooks it as long as you don't know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and He's calling for a radical life-change. <sup>31</sup> He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And He has already appointed the judge, confirming Him before everyone by raising Him from the dead." Message*

*That which hinders us from coming to God is not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.*