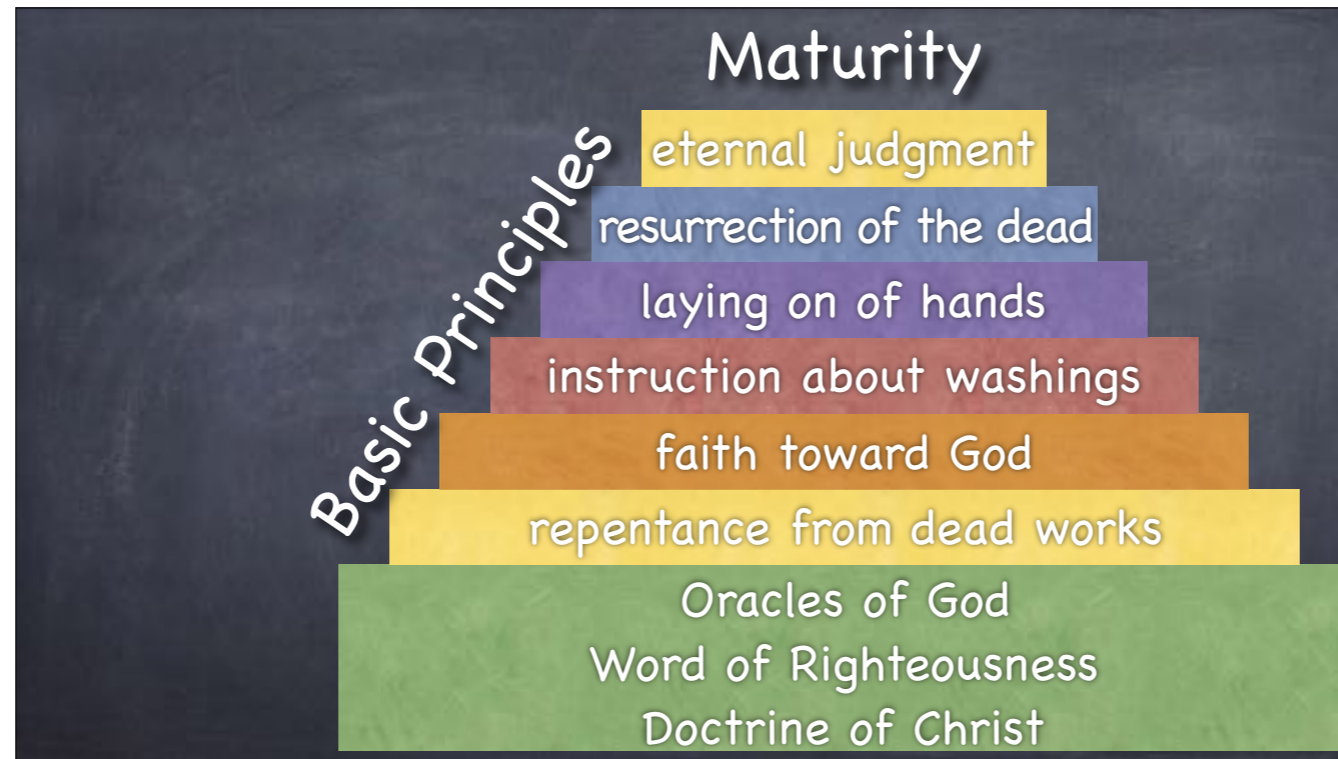
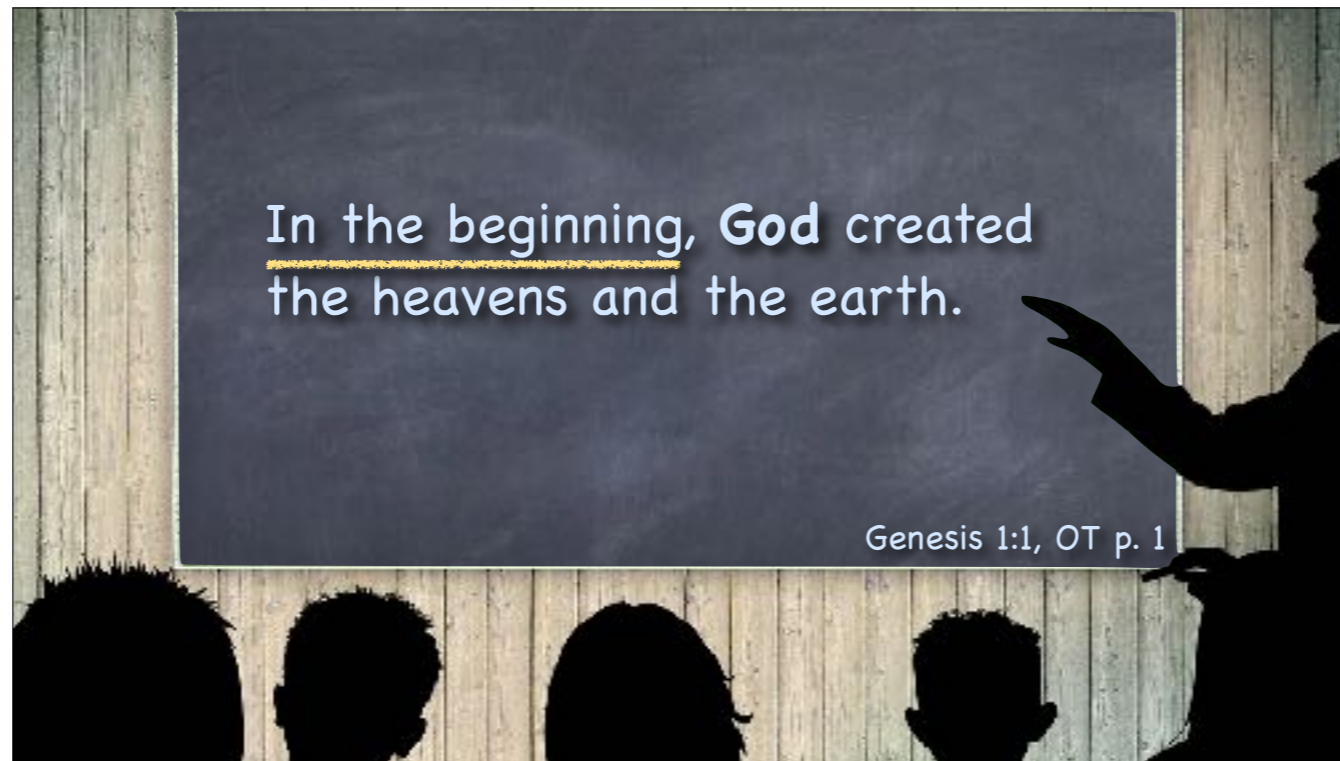


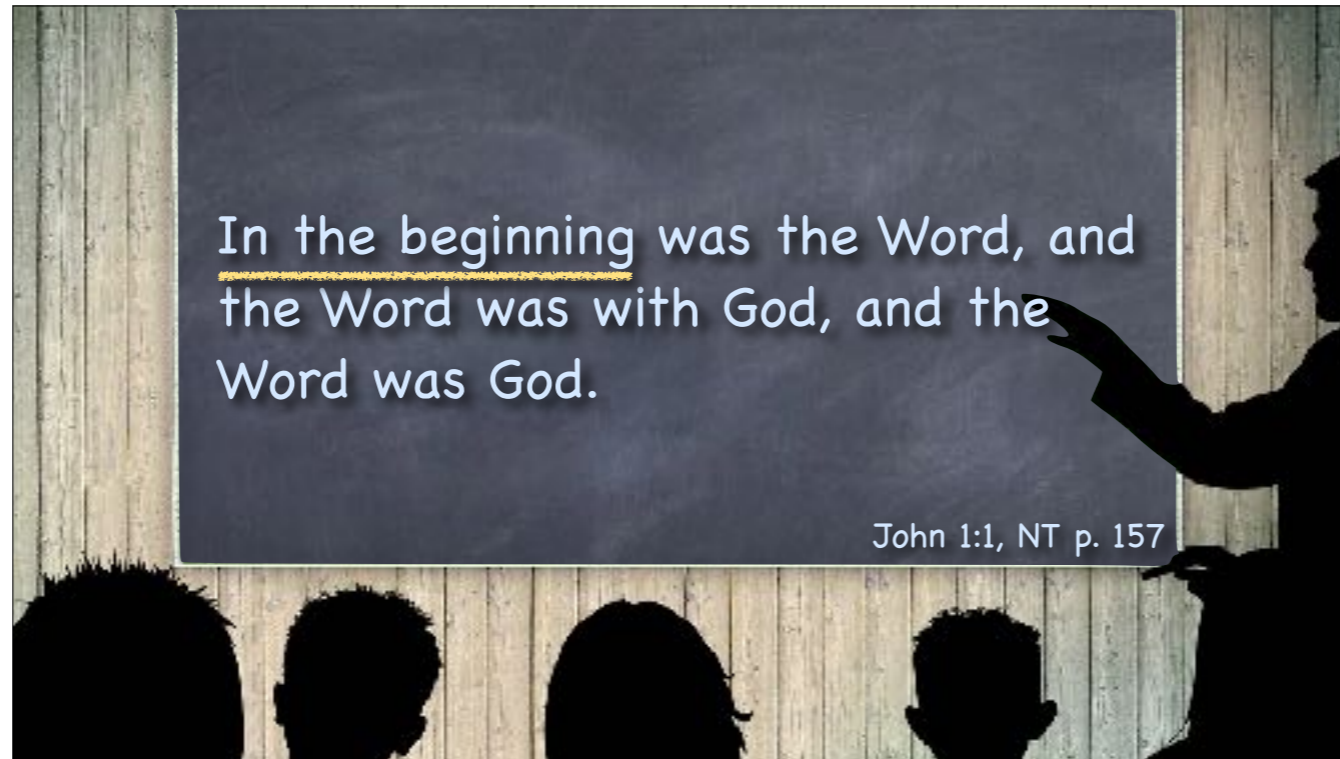
- text



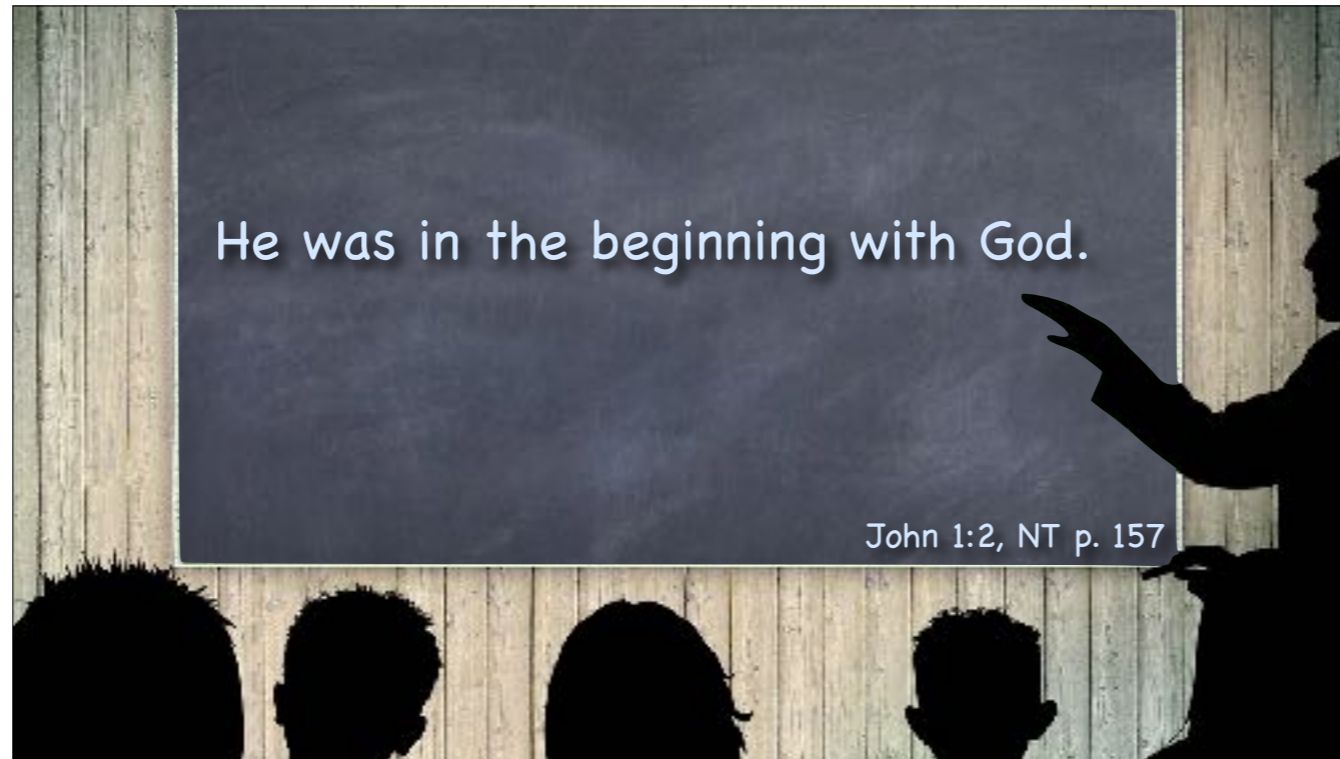
- Hebrews 6:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of **Christ** and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward **God**, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
- Start at very beginning.



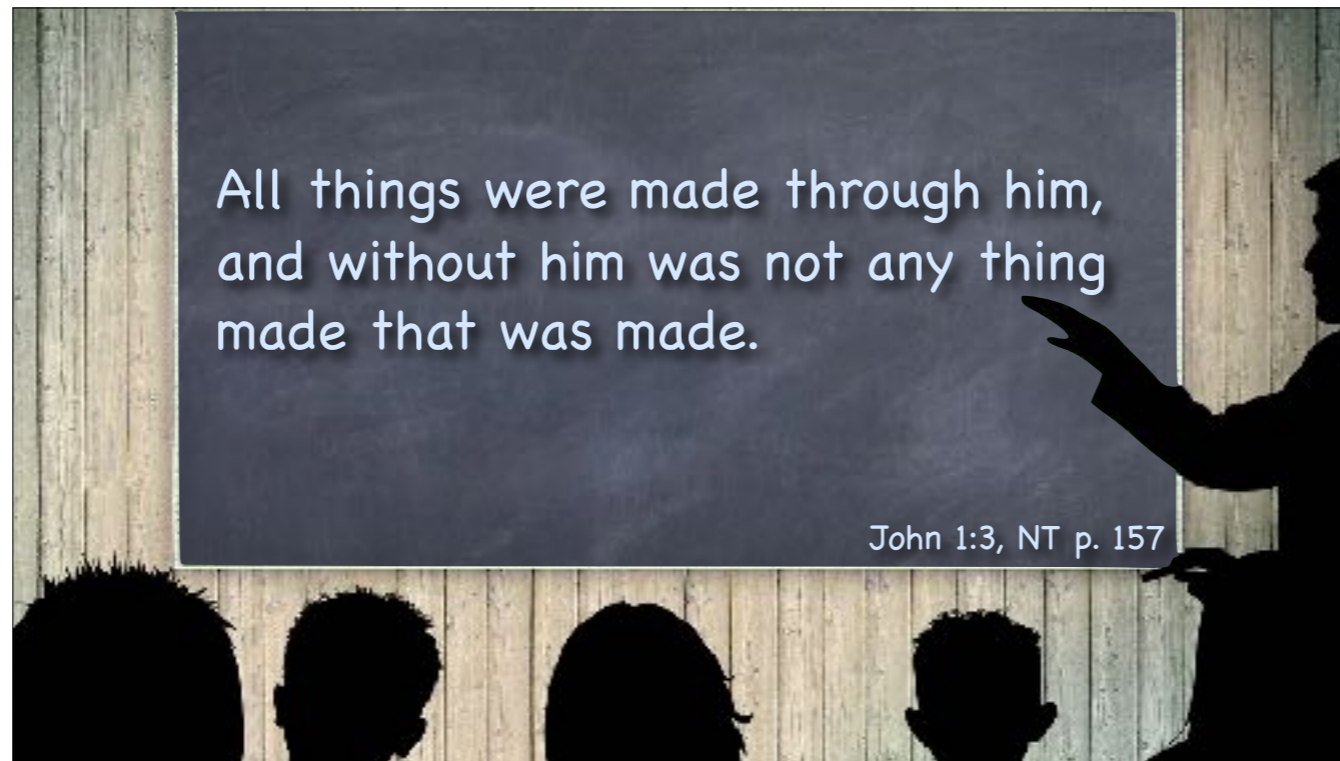
- Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



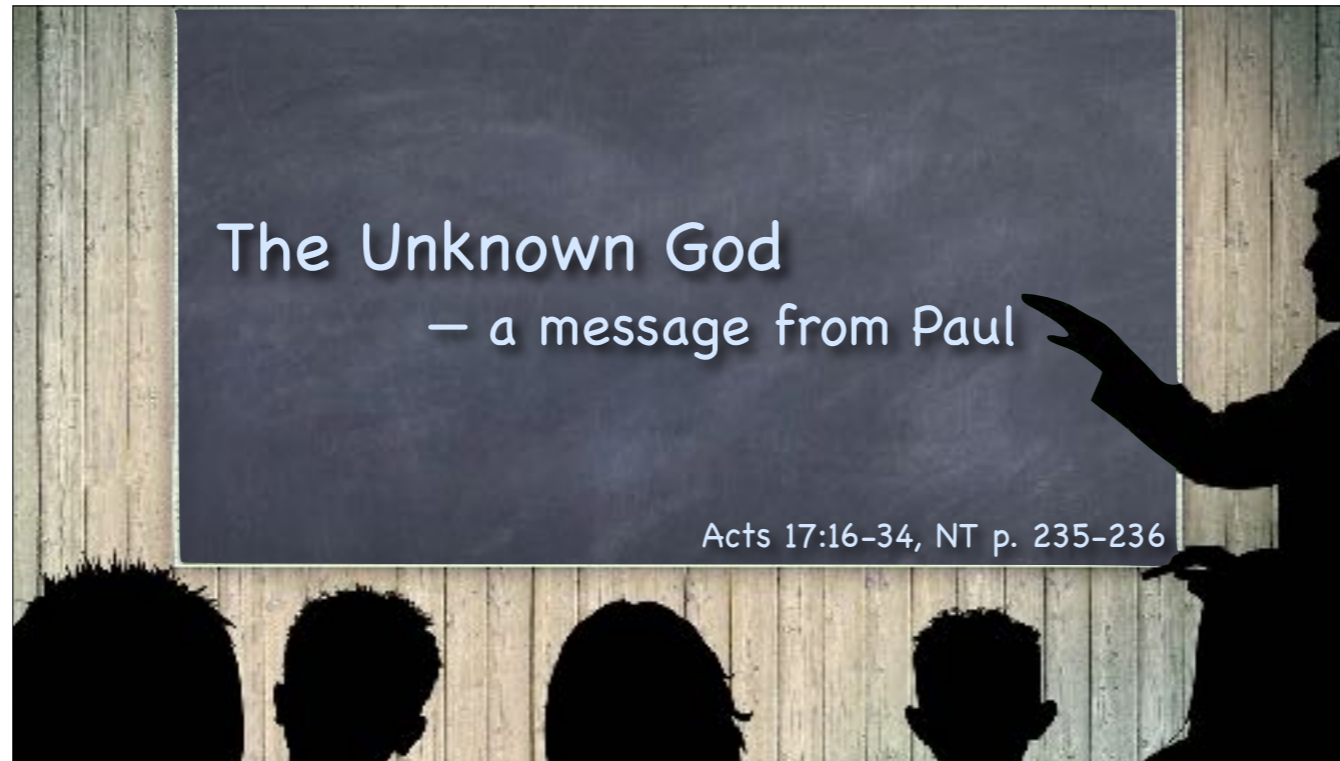
- John 1:1 (ESV) 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



- 2 He was in the beginning with God.



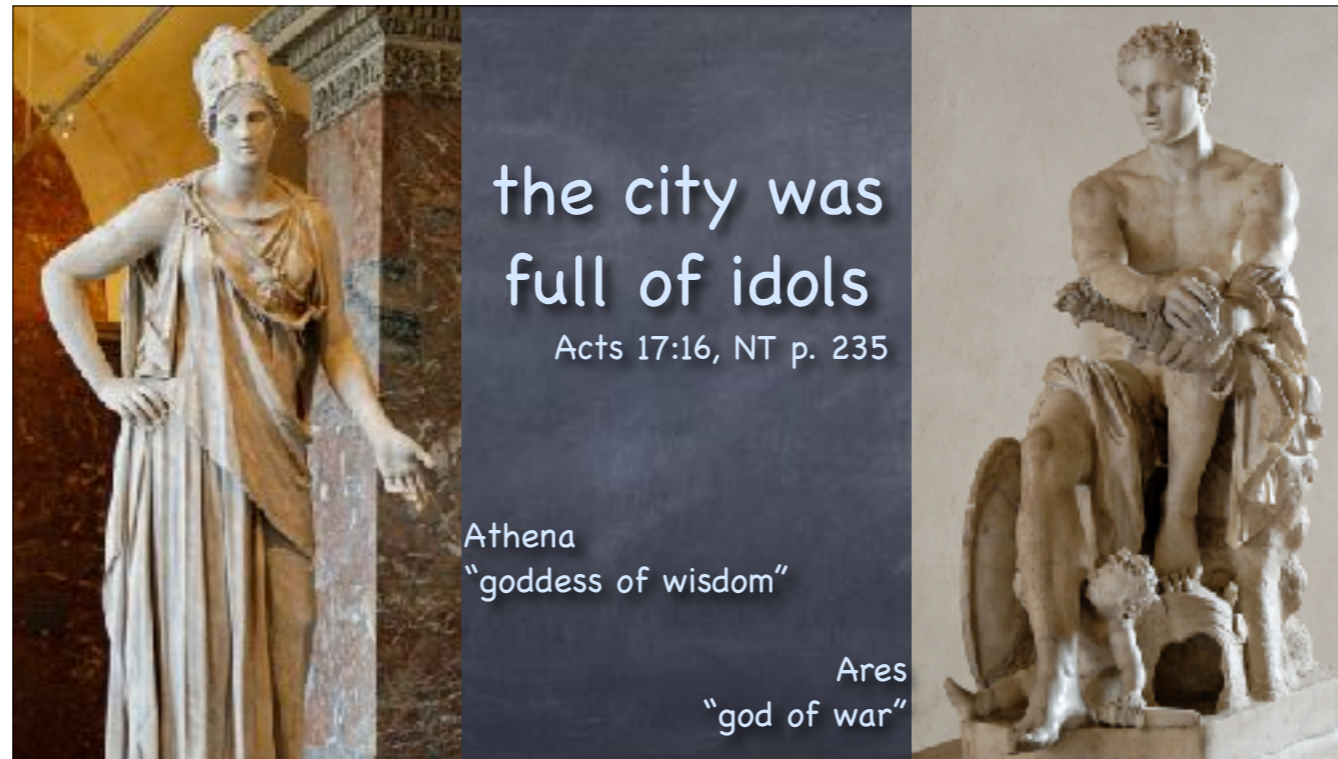
- 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.



- The Unknown God



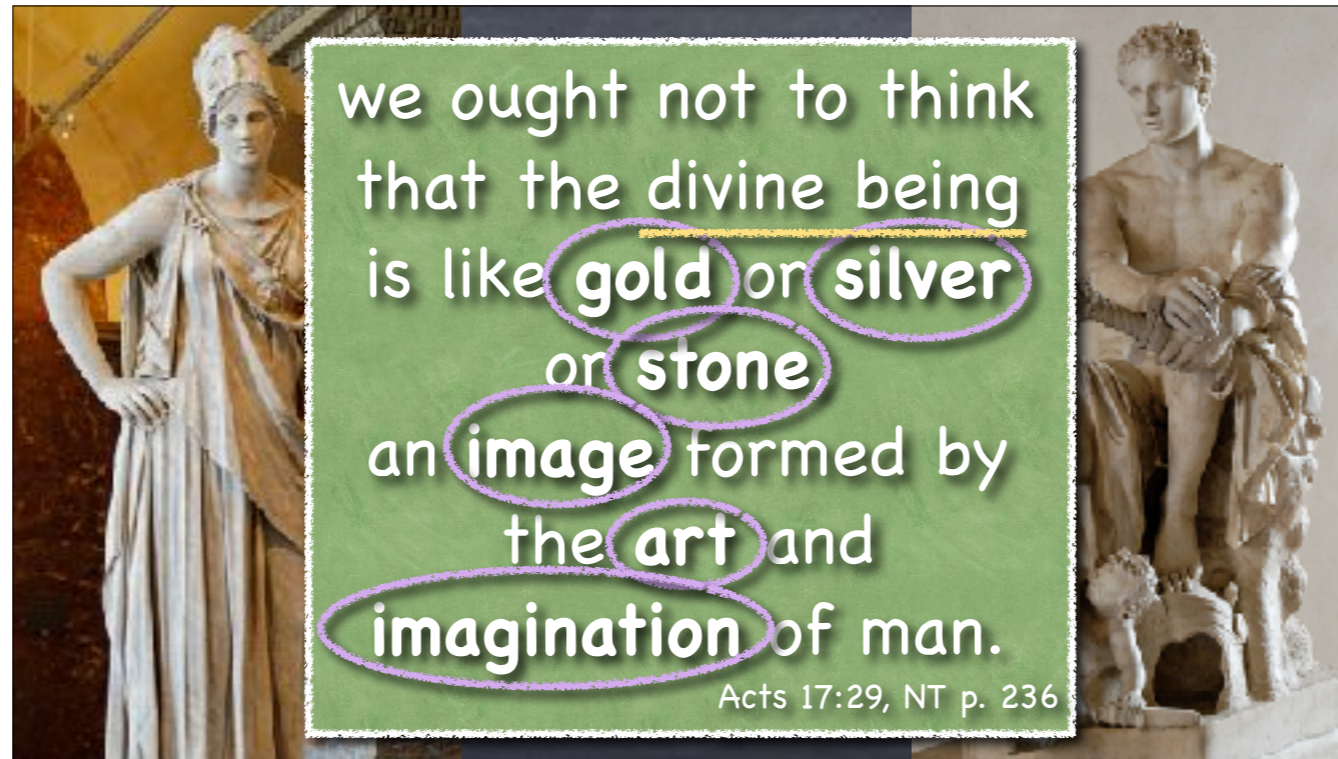
- Paul...
 - chosen by Jesus to be a teacher to world
 - journey's to Greece, Athens



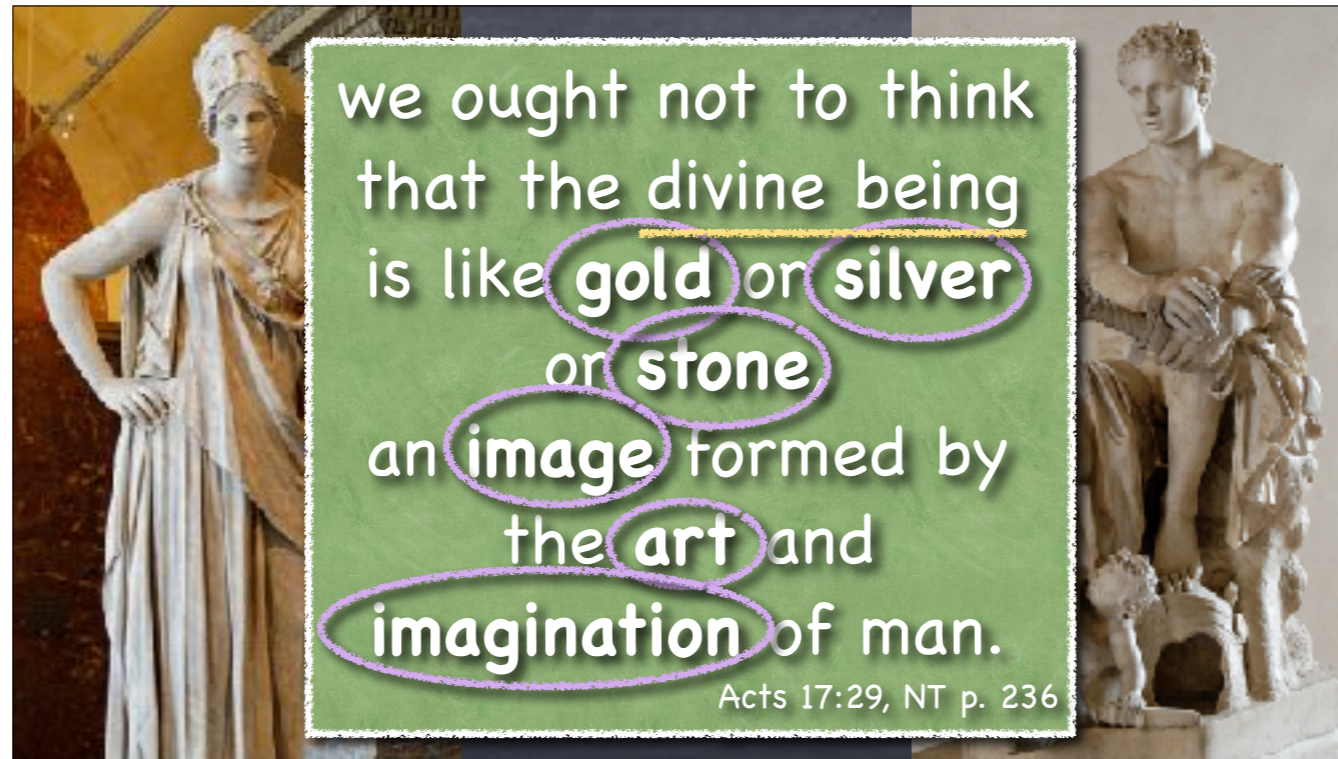
- Acts 17:16: Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.
- What is an idol?
 - false gods
 -



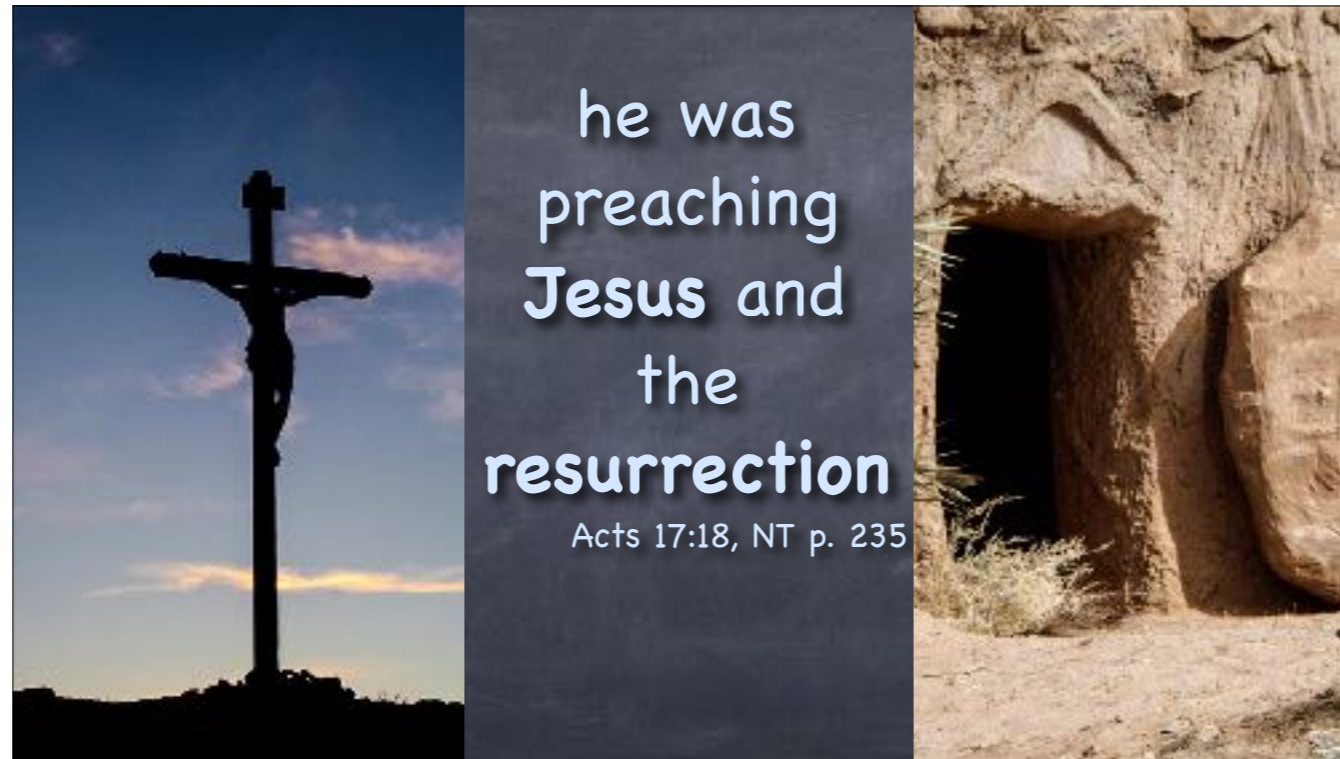
- Romans 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.



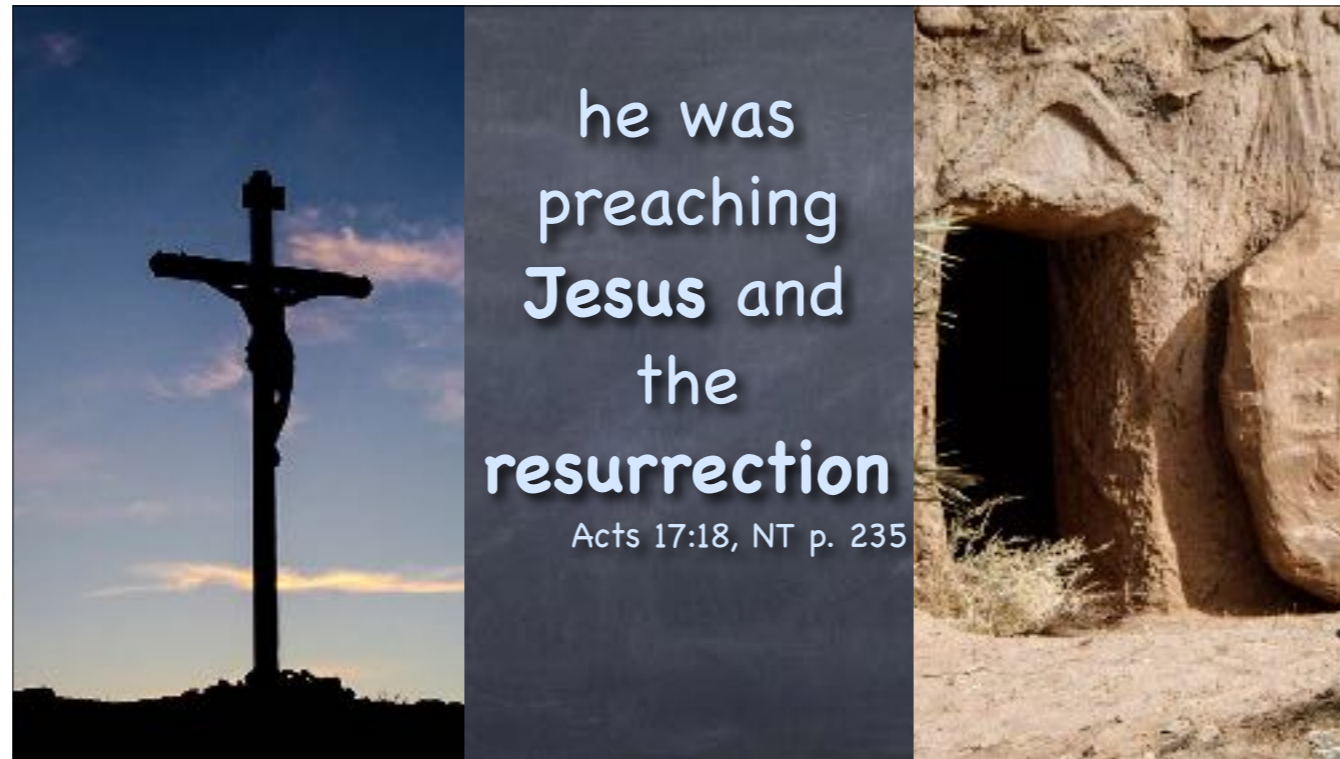
- Acts 17:29 (ESV) Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.
- Are there idols in my heart?



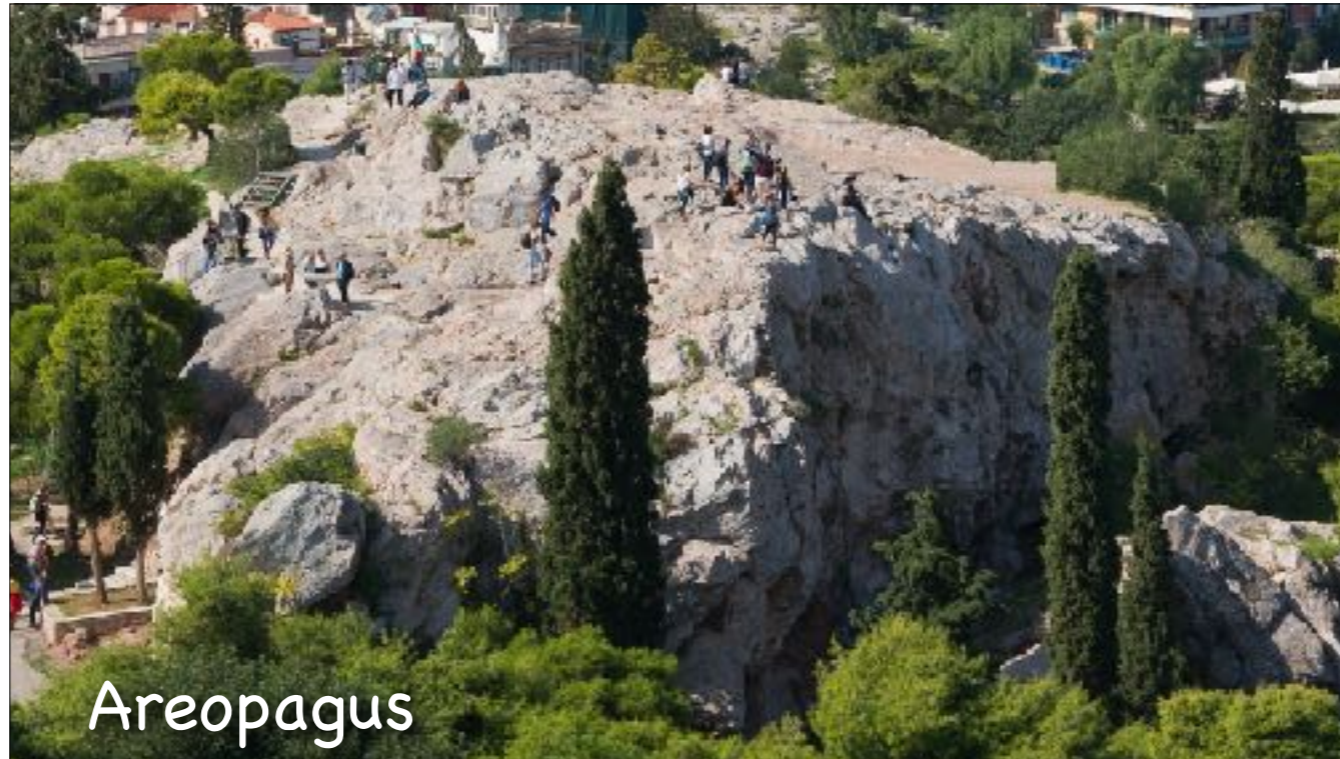
- Most of us don't have the gold, silver or stone images.
- But what fills our imaginations? What do we treat as greater than God EVERYDAY?
 - a special possession?
 - wealth?
 - patriotism?
 - lust?
 - spouse? family?



- Acts 17:18: Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.



- Jesus...
 - by miracles and teaching: son of God, Christ of prophecy
 - by dying: forgiveness of sins for us
 - by resurrection: triumph over death
 - our hope of resurrection
- Good News.



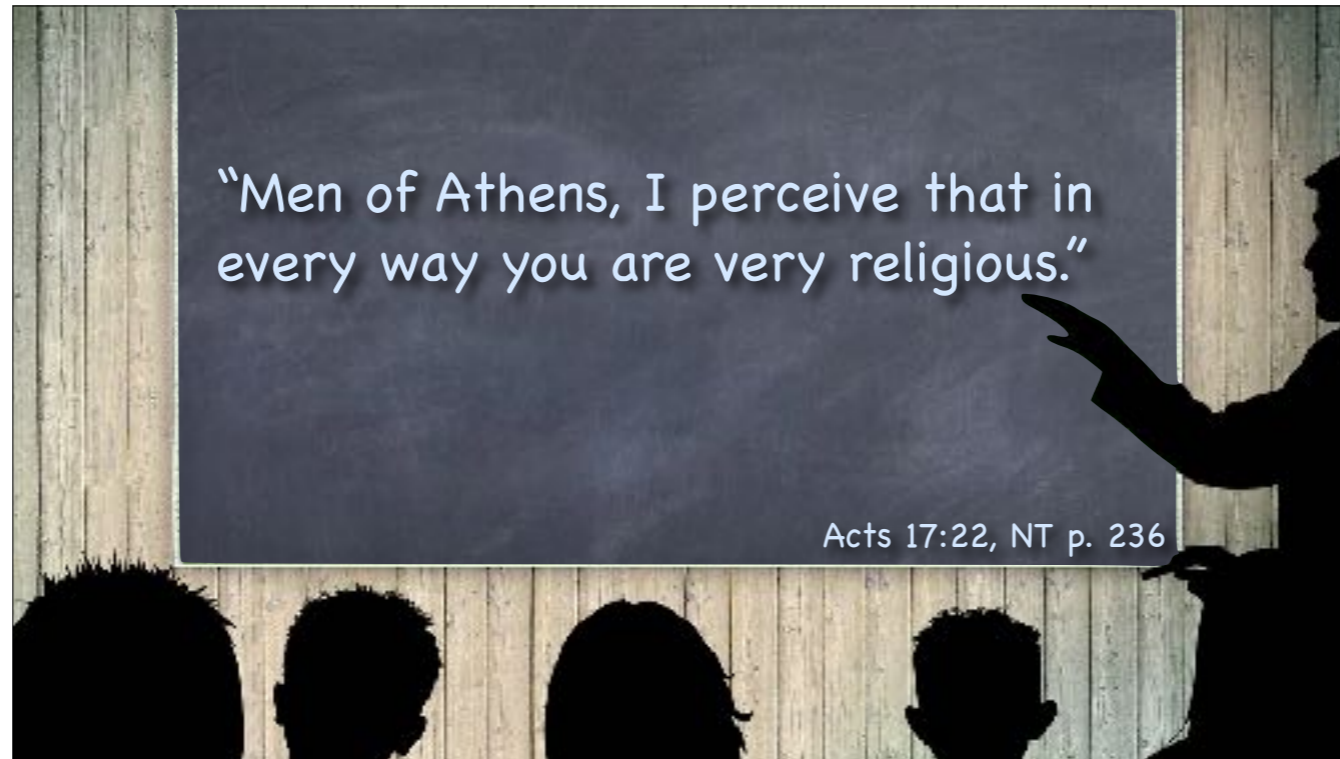
- Acts 17:19-20 (ESV) 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”

A chalkboard with a dark blue surface is mounted on a light-colored wooden wall. The text 'The Unknown God' and '— a message from Paul' is written in white on the board. In the bottom right corner of the board, the text 'Acts 17:16-34, NT p. 235-236' is written. In the foreground, the silhouettes of five people are visible, looking towards the chalkboard. One person on the right is pointing towards the text on the board.

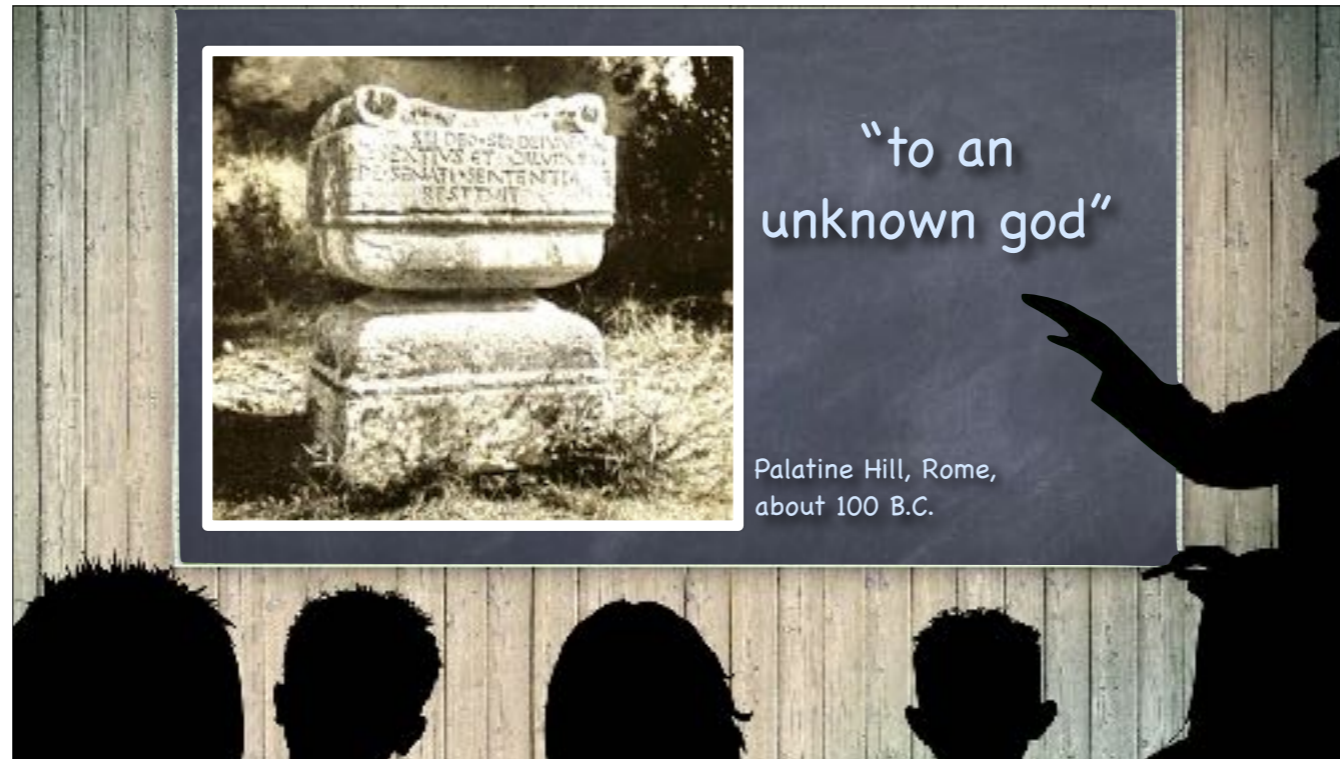
The Unknown God

— a message from Paul

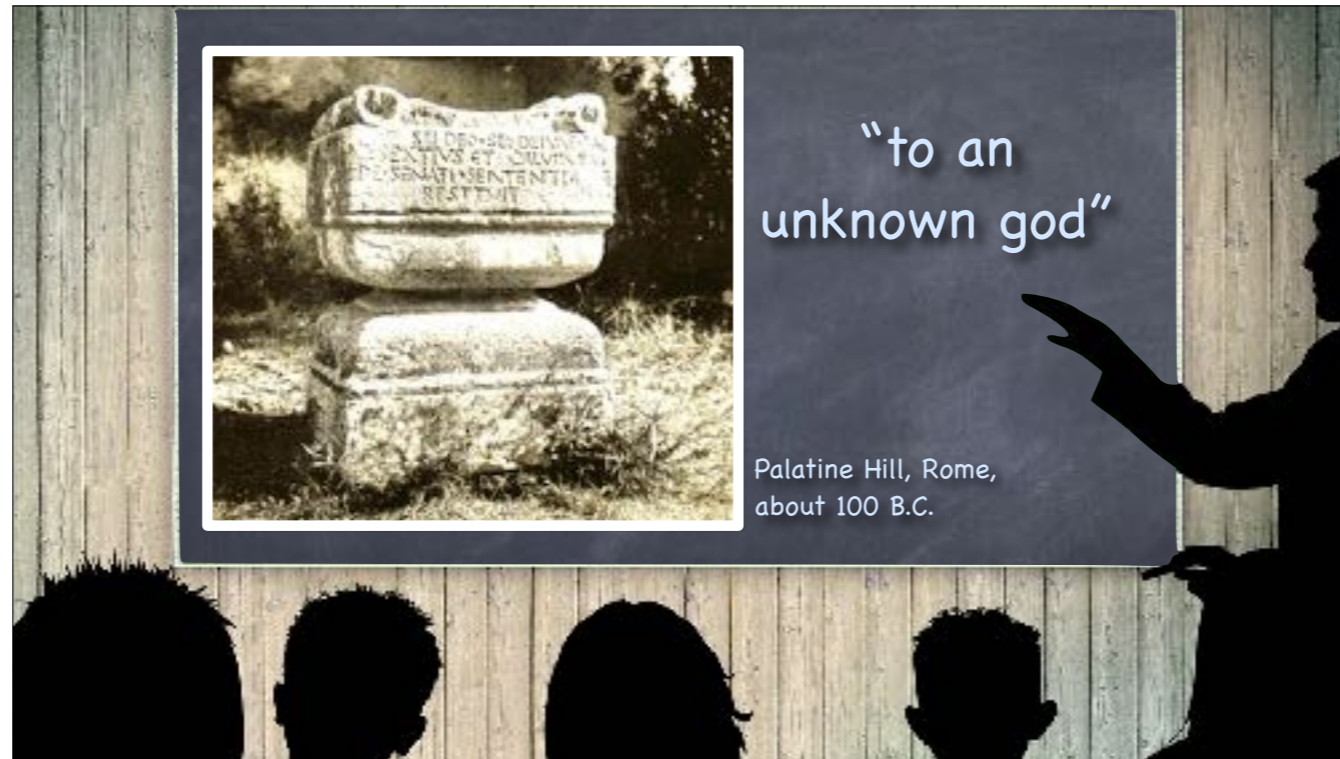
Acts 17:16-34, NT p. 235-236



- 22 "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious."
 - This is true for many of us, or we wouldn't be here today.
 - Brothers and sisters...
 - We must be cautious that we don't allow familiarity to dull our hearing, thoughts, and hearts about our Father and God.



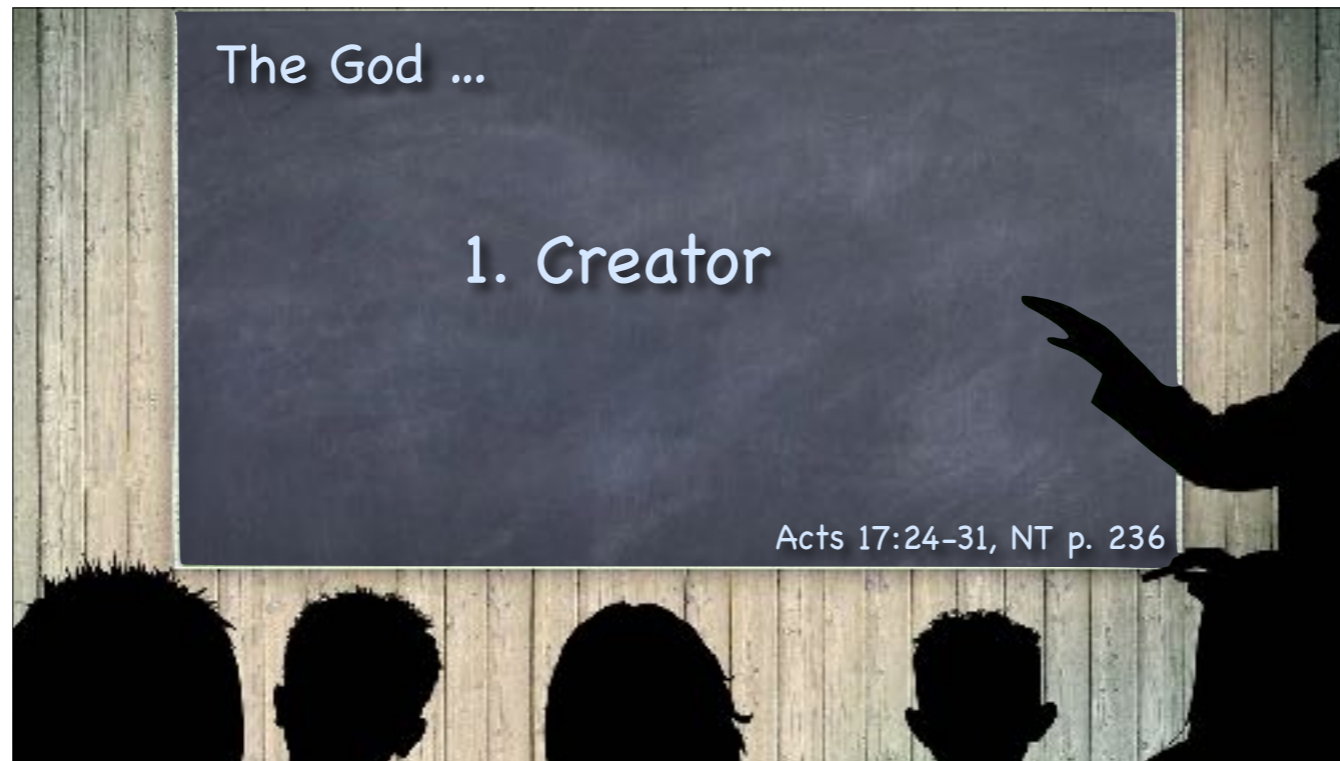
- Acts 17:23 (ESV) 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.



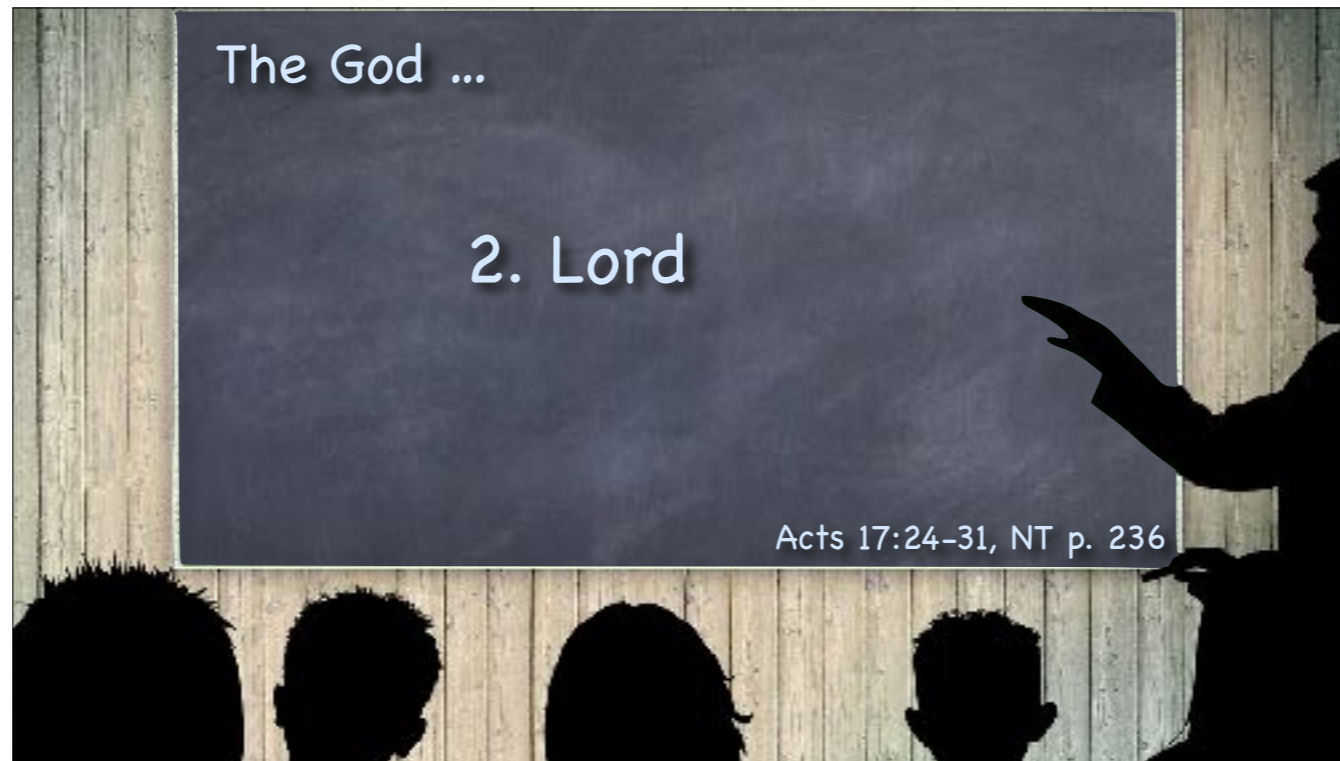
1. But he also wants to present to them something better
 1. Better because it is real, not the imaginations of man; gods made in the image of man
 2. Paul is going to teach them about the real God



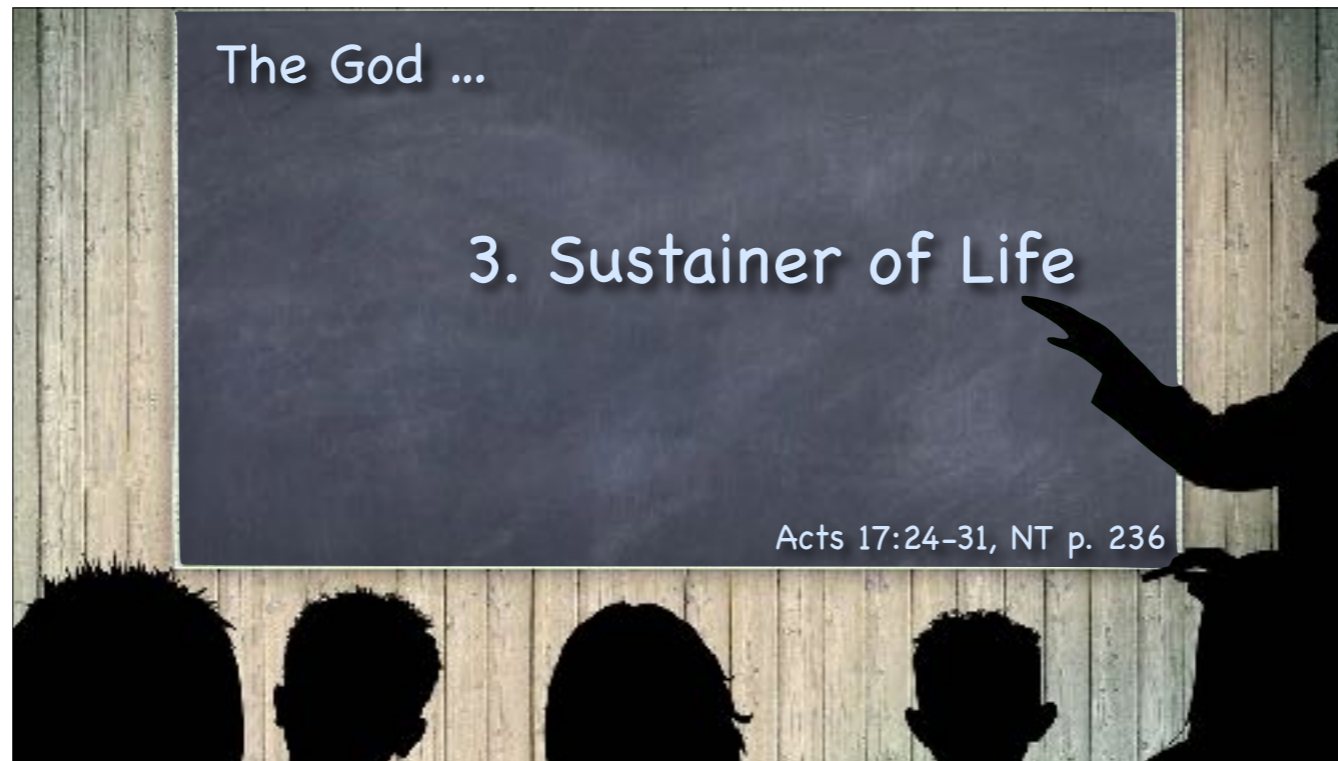
1. God: Acts 17:24-31
 1. Romans 1:23: the **glory** of the immortal God
2. For those of you who are not familiar with God
3. For those of us who think we are... open eyes and see the glory of God!



1. Creator
 1. Made the world and everything in it



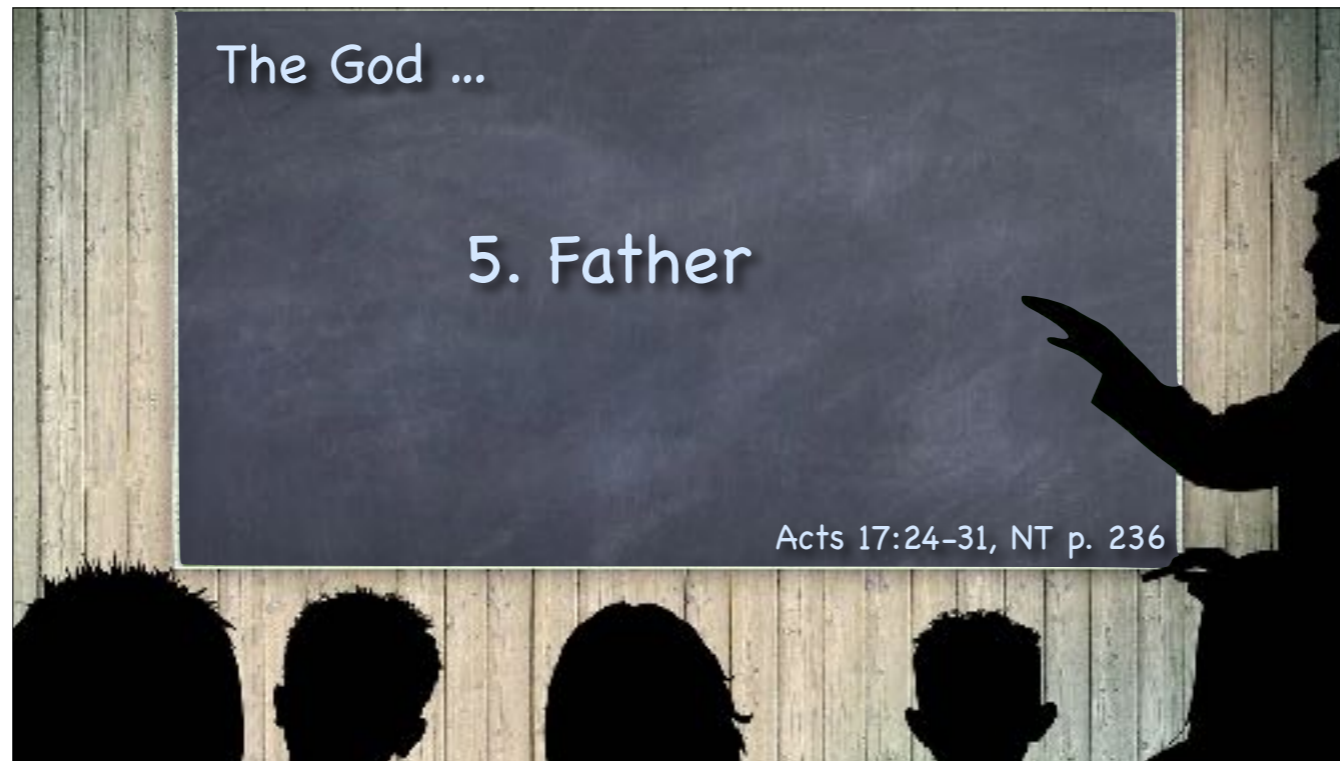
1. Lord
 1. Lord of heaven and earth
 2. Does not live in shrines made by human hands



1. Sustainer of Life
 1. Nor is He served by human hands
 2. As though He needed anything
 3. He Himself gives to all mortals life, and breath, and all things



1. Ruler
 1. From one ancestor He made all nations to inhabit the whole earth
 2. He allotted the times of their existence
 3. And boundaries of the places where they would live



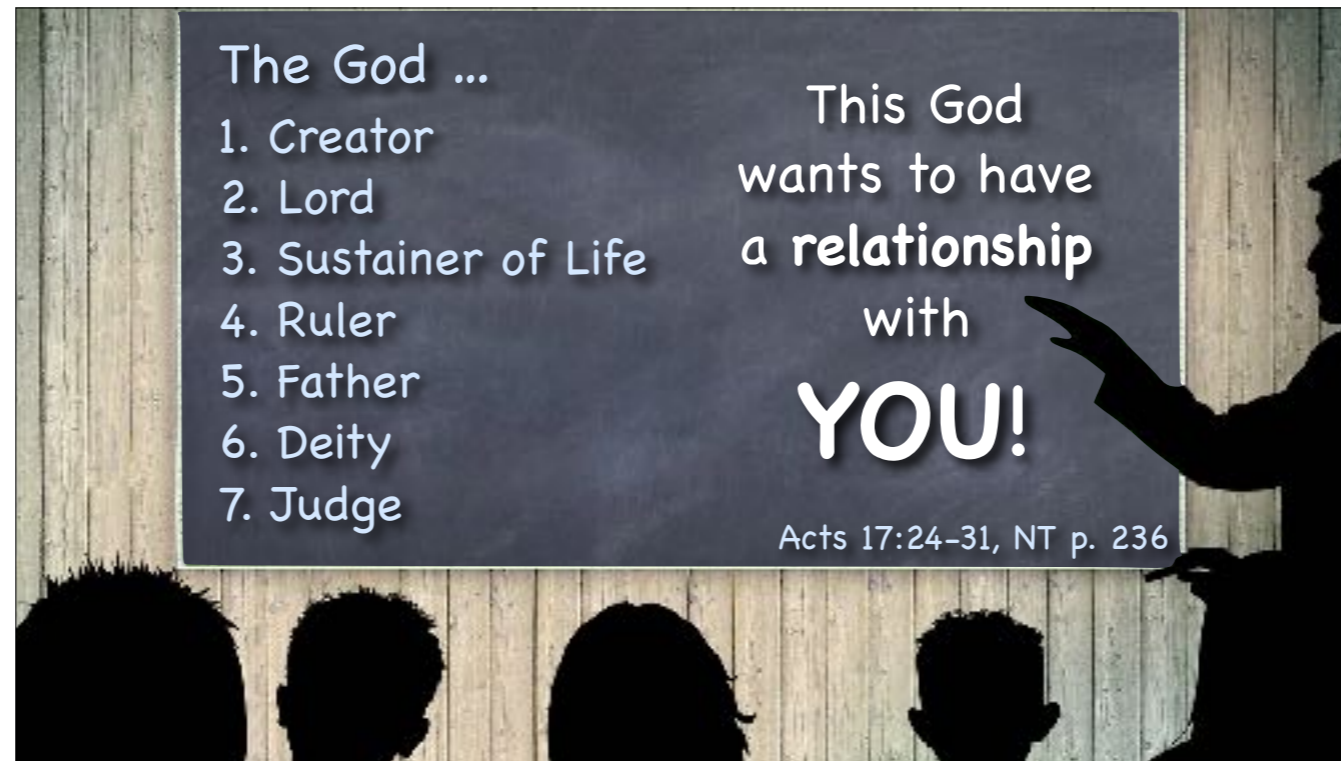
1. Father
 1. He is not far from each one of us
 2. In Him we live and move and have our being
 3. For we too are His offspring



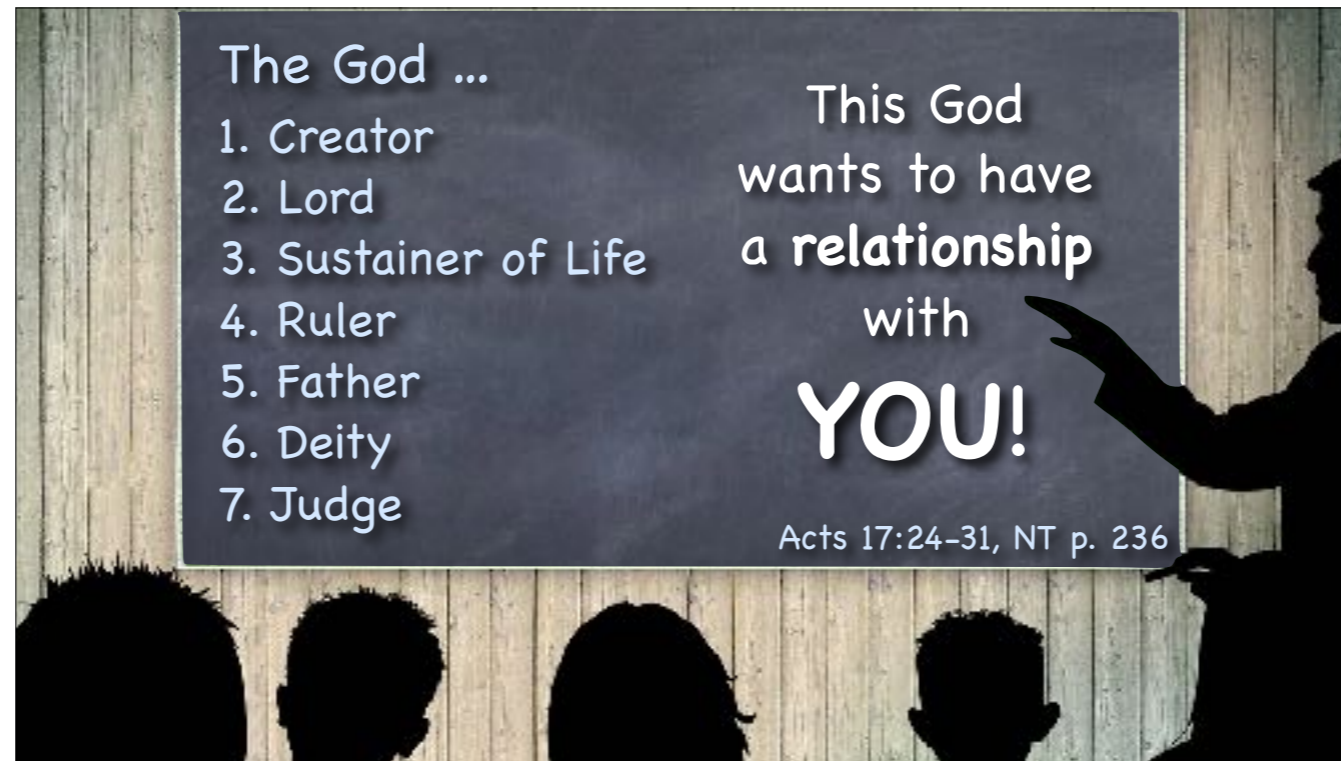
1. Deity
 1. Not think that the deity is like gold, silver, stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals
 1. Not human
 2. Not created or made by man



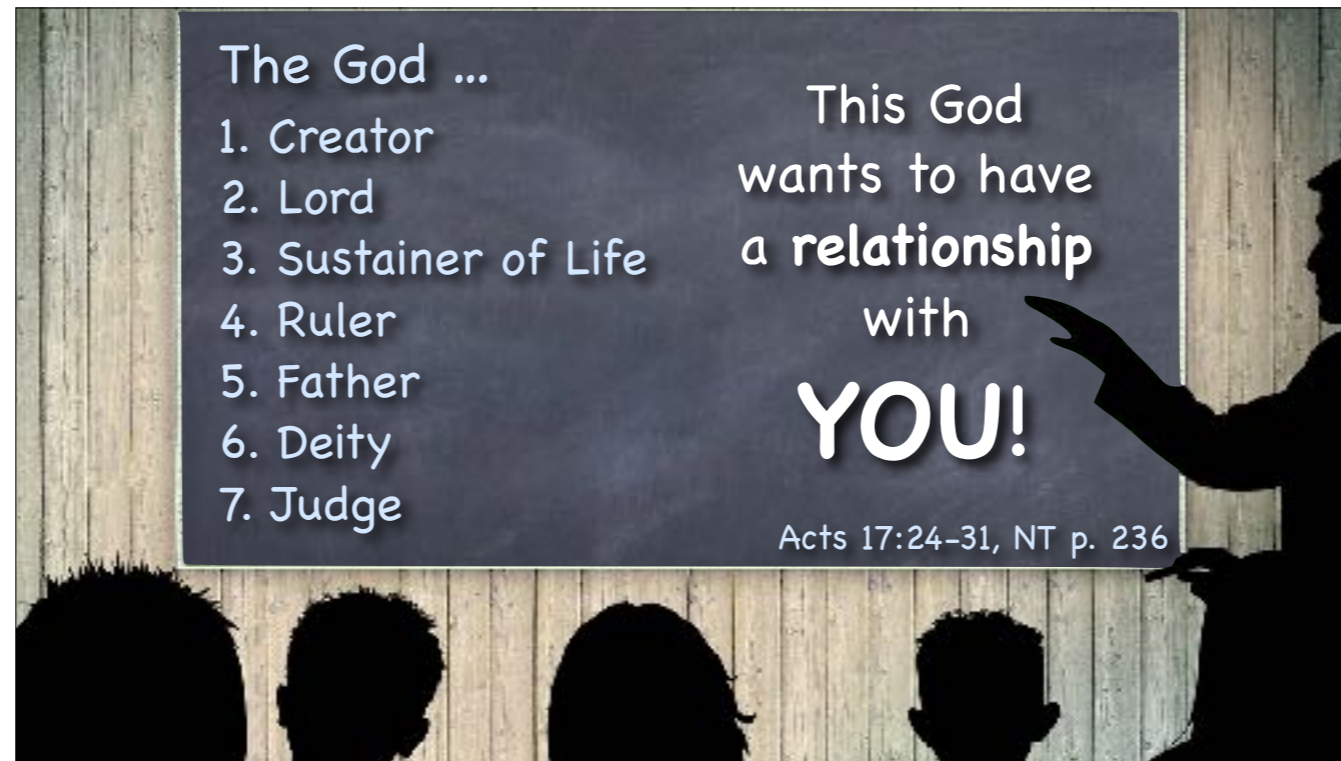
1. Judge
 1. Commands all people everywhere to repent
 1. change mind with regard to serving false gods and living in sin and rebellion to the true God and His will
 2. He will have the world judged
 1. Fixed day
 2. In righteousness
 3. By a man He has appointed
 4. Assurance: raised Him from the dead



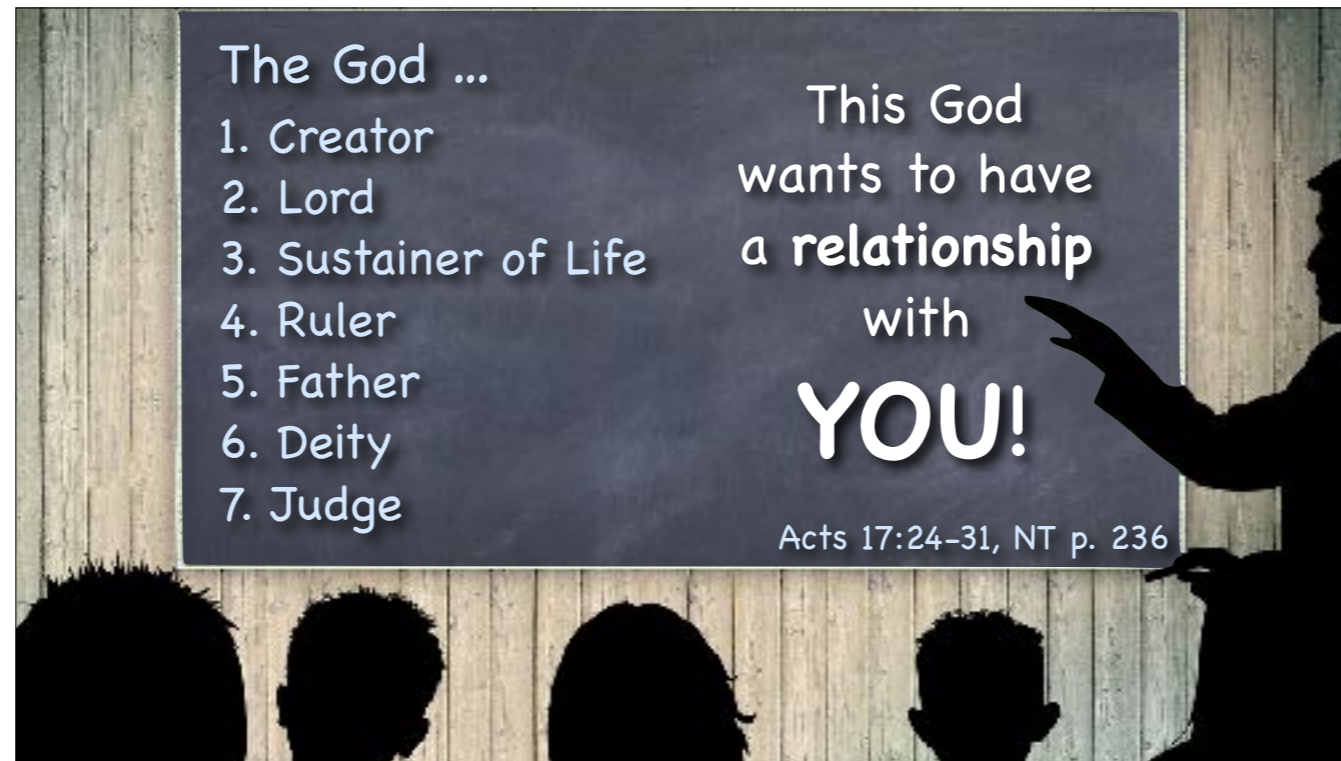
1. This God ... desires to have a relationship with you.
 1. Good news!



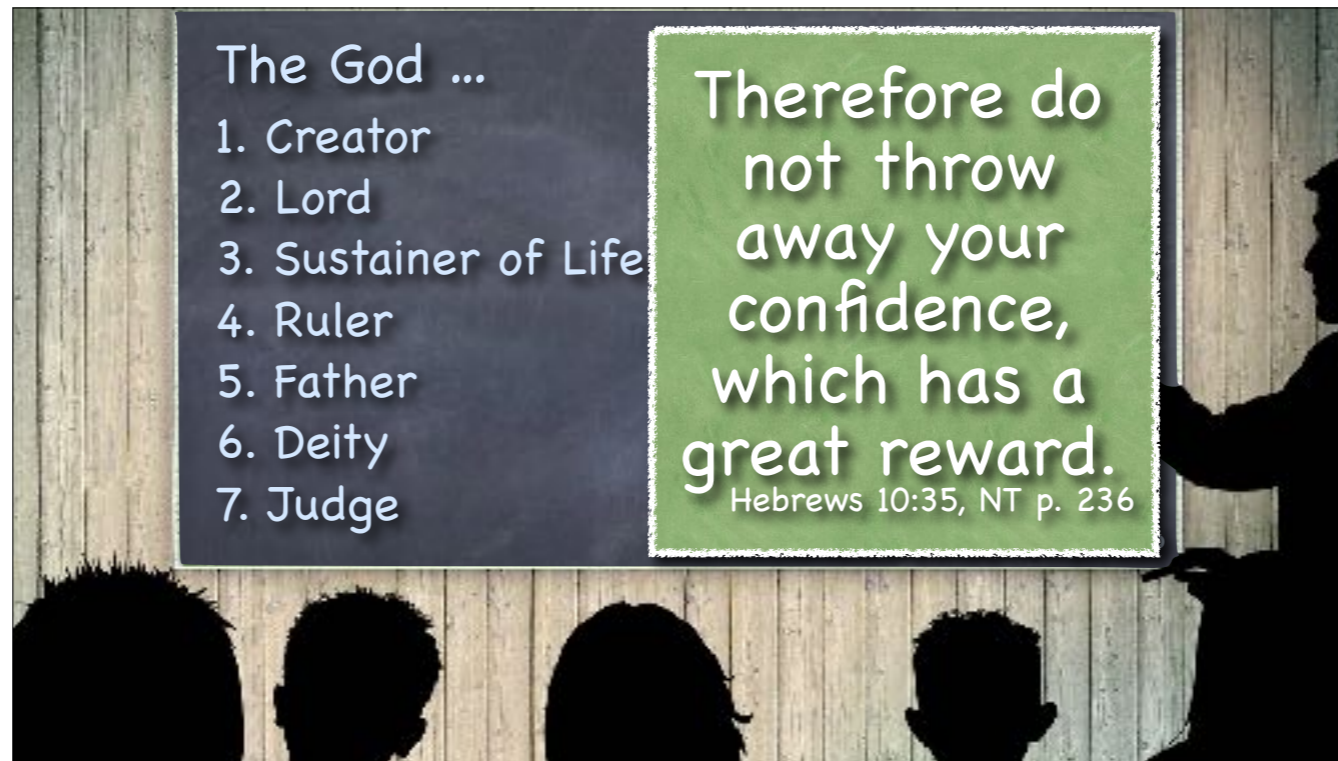
2. The Search for God
 1. Seek God, 27
 2. Feel their way toward Him, 27
 3. Find Him, 27
 4. He is actually **not far** from **each** one of us
 1. "In Him we live and move and have our being"
 2. "For we too are His offspring"



1. Acts 17:30-31 (ESV) 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked,
2. but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**,
 1. 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world
 2. in righteousness
 3. by a man whom he has appointed;
 1. and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

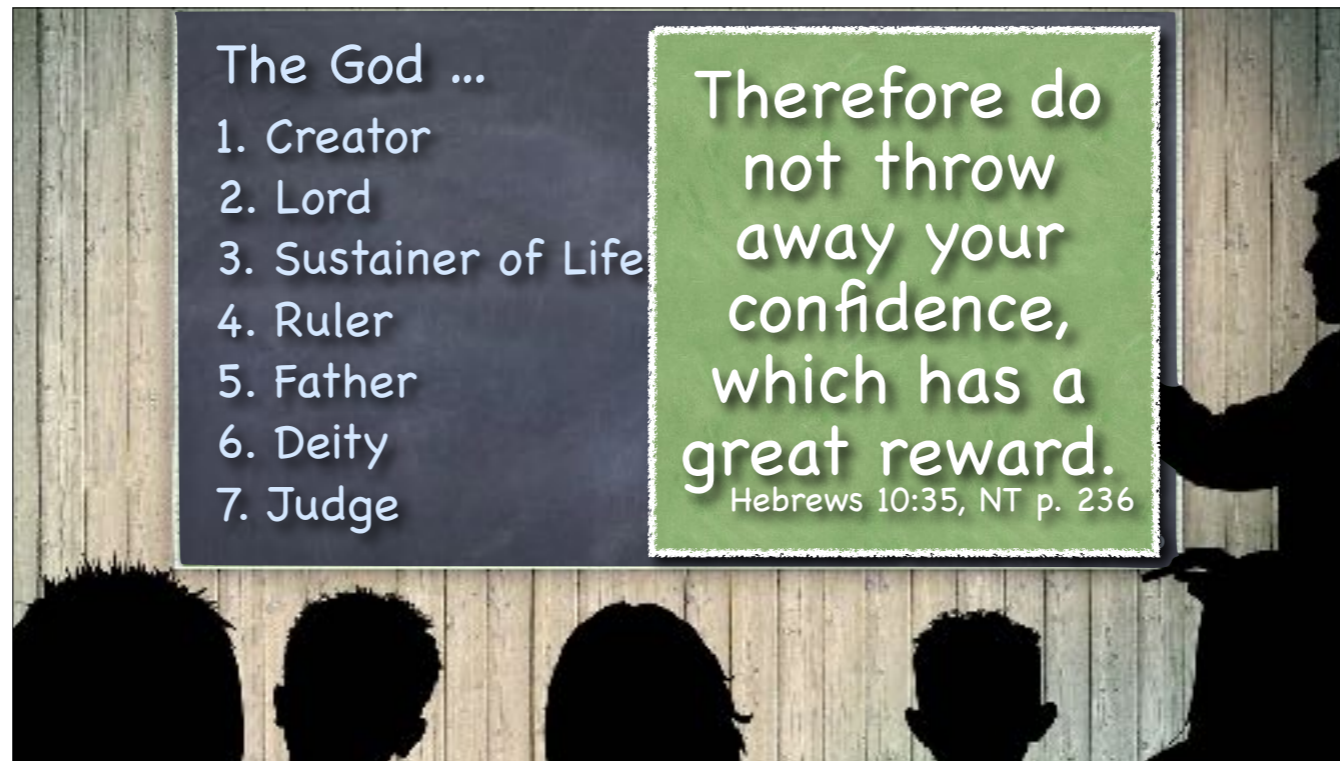


1. A wonderful reminder for those of us who are Christians
 1. Remember everyday your relationship with God: what a blessing.
2. What are you actively doing to keep your relationship strong? healthy?
 1. It takes time and effort, consistency.
 2. Time listening to Him, seeking wisdom and help: reading Bible
 3. Time talking to Him, pray always

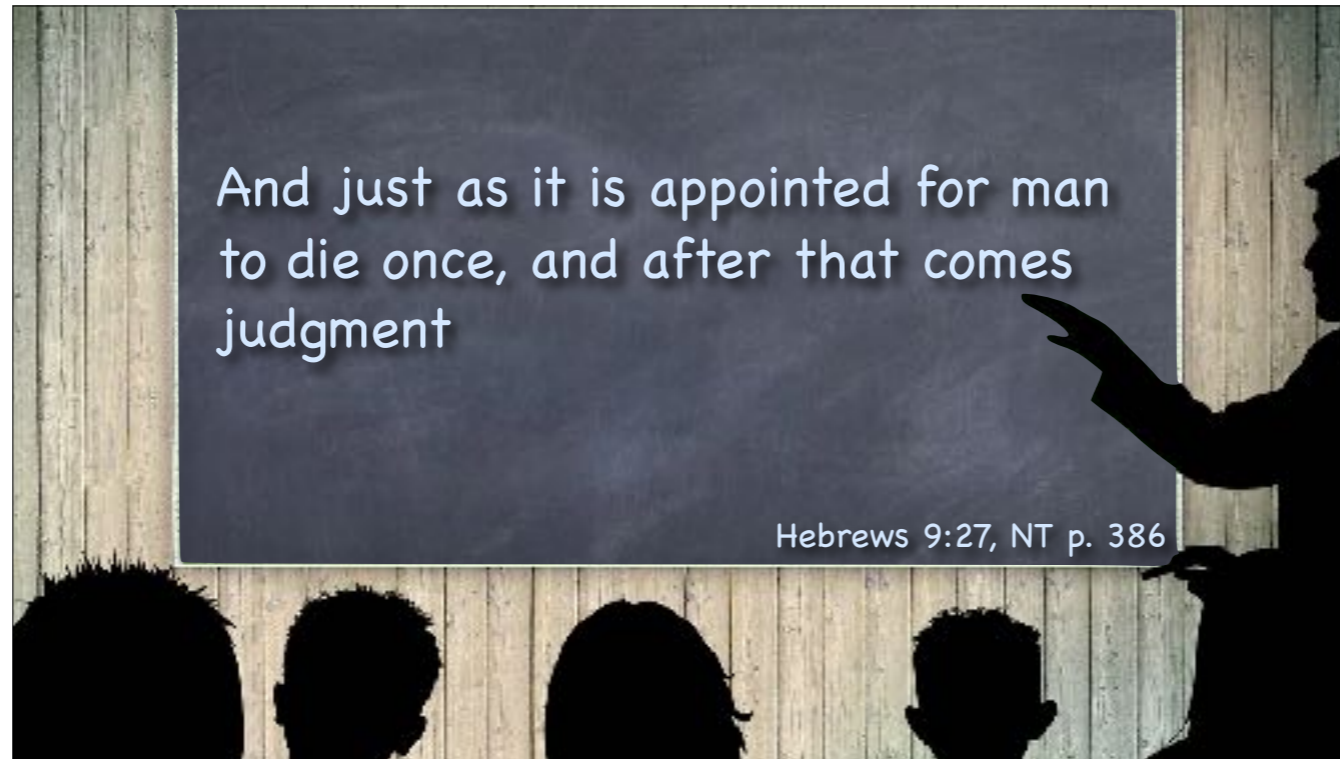


1. Confidence to Endure even through difficulties

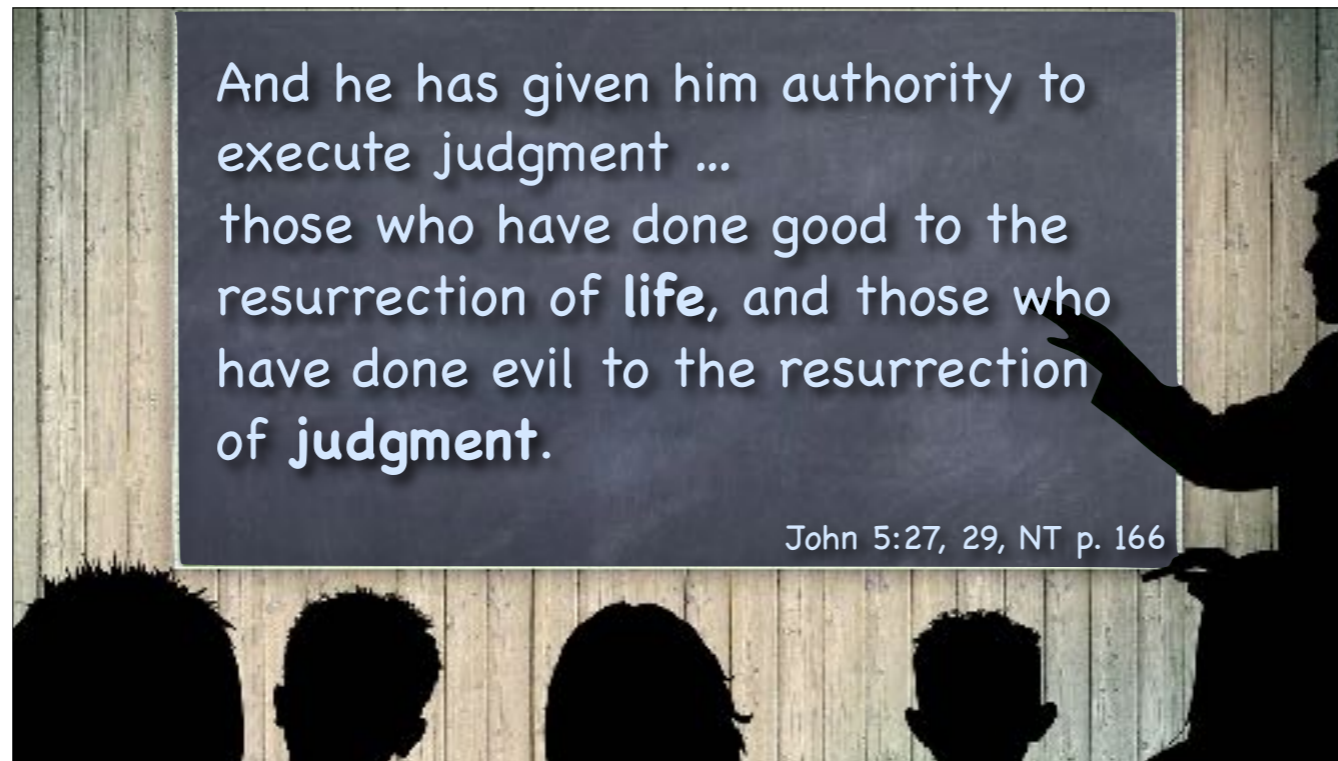
1. Hebrews 10:35-36 (ESV) Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.
2. Hebrews 10:39 (ESV) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.



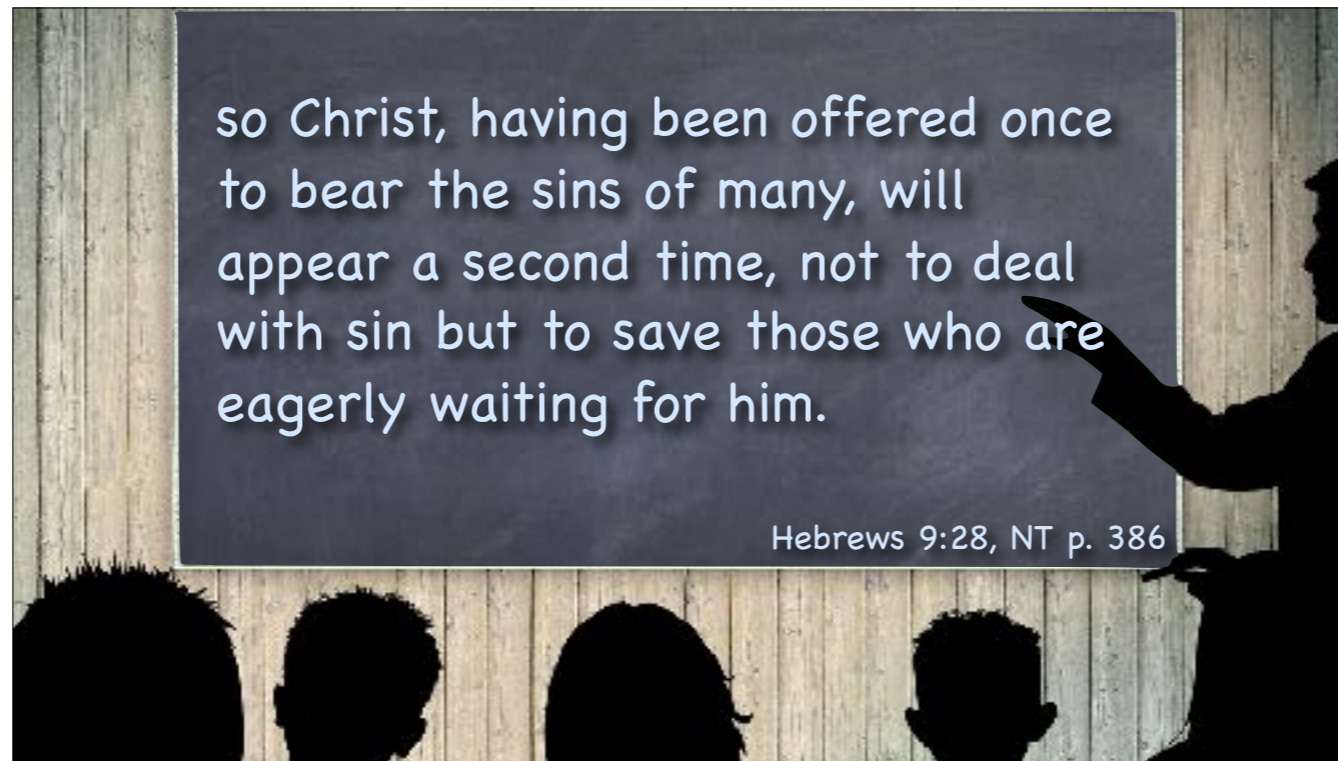
1. Seek after God daily!



1. Hebrews 9:26-28 (ESV) But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.



1. John 5:26-29 (ESV) 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.



1. 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
2. Choose resurrection of life!
 1. Choose Jesus Christ, son of God
 2. Believe
 3. Repent
 4. Be baptized

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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God & Christ

Hebrews 5:11 - 6:8

Synopsis: While not explicitly stated in this passage, it's clear that an important part of the foundation is an understanding of who God and Jesus are. Paul helps us to understand that this glorious immortal God desires a relationship with us, that we should seek him, find him and repent.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."