

# Paul in Athens script

Grace and peace to you! I'm Paul, a servant of the Lord here in ancient times. I've been traveling around starting churches and telling people about our amazing God and what Jesus, the Son of God, did for us on the cross.

In my travels, I arrived in a city called Athens, which is in Greece. I decided to walk around the city, and as I did, I started to feel very upset inside, because everywhere I went, I saw idols. Do you know what an idol is? Take answers.

An idol is an image or statue of a false god. It is something that we love or worship instead of God. The Greeks have many false gods that are made by the people. Sadly, the people worship these idols instead of the one true God. Supposedly, these gods live far away on Mount Olympus. They hide from men, and you never know how they may react. Listen as I tell you about a few of them.

One is called *Cronos*. He is said to have hurt his father and swallowed his own children so they wouldn't become too powerful and take his throne away from him.

Another is *Zeus*. He is said to be king of the Greek gods. His symbol is the lightning bolt, because he supposedly throws them down to earth in fits of anger. He's supposed to be the most powerful of the Greek gods.

*Nike* is said to be the goddess of victory. She wants to win so much she's willing to be unfair and cheat.

And let's not forget *Poseidon*. He is said to be the god of the sea. He sinks ships or drowns people on a whim if he wants to. He's moody and unpredictable. You never know when he's going to whip up a storm because he's upset.

These are just a few of the many Greek gods I hear about here. Some have said it's easier to find a god in Athens than a man because there are false gods—idols—everywhere—thousands upon thousands.

Seeing all these idols upset me, because there's only one true God, and I want everyone to know him! So I went to the synagogue, which is like the church Jewish people go to, and talked to them about the one true God.

Show the PAUL IN ATHENS POSTER. One day, some of the scholars of Athens asked me to come to a rocky spot high up in the city where they had their court. It's called the Areopagus (air-ee-OP-a-gus). They wanted to know what I'd been telling everybody.

So, I said to them: Men of Athens, I see you're very religious. For as I passed along, I saw your idols, and even found an altar that said: "To the unknown god." Well, what you're worshipping as unknown, I want to tell you about, because *God can be known!* He doesn't live in temples made by you, and he isn't a statue of gold or silver or stone, but he is God, the Creator of the world! He made it, and he owns it.

And the awesome thing is that if we seek the one true God, we'll find he's not far from us but wants to have a relationship with us. God sent his Son, Jesus, who lived and died and was raised from the dead, so we can have that relationship if we turn from our sins and seek him.

Well, when I finished telling the men this, how do you think they responded? Take answers.

Some made fun of me, some said they'd like to hear more, and some came with me right then and there because they realized I was right—there really is only one true God!

You know, many people consider God a mystery, but he *can be known*, and he *wants to be known*. Of course, we'll never know everything about God—he's too big and great—but we can know him enough to understand who he is and to have a personal relationship with him. This week, I hope you will not only get to know *about* God, but get to *know* God.

Well, thanks for having me in. Shalom!