

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Acts 17:22-31 “Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are **very religious**; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Therefore, the One whom you worship **without knowing**, Him I proclaim to you: God, who **made** the world and **everything** in it, since He is **Lord** of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things**. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope 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 also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because *He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*”

Quote: God is not a “Master Card” through Whom self-deceived individuals think they get a ticket into heaven and out of hell only to live the remainder of their life as they think it should be lived.

Athens was filled with idols. Out of a burden for their souls, Paul daily reasoned with Jews and Gentiles about Jesus Christ and the resurrection. This drew the attention of prominent philosophers. Some accused Paul of being “‘a proclaimer of foreign gods,’ because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection,” while others insulted him, calling him a babblers. Out of compassion, Paul confronted them with courage and conviction. He began by pointing out that they had an altar to “the Unknown God.” It was a religious

Attempt to “cover all their bases” just in case their idols to specific gods did not get the job done. “The inscription ‘to foreign gods’ was common, but Paul changed the plural to the singular because he was bringing teaching about a *particular unknown God*.”¹ Paul declared that “all their worship was corrupt; they were uncertain what gods they ought to worship, so they took up various rites haphazardly. They had set up an altar TO AN UNKNOWN GOD, showing that they had no certainty at all. Certainly they had a great number of gods, about whom they told many stories; but mixing them with unknown gods showed that they knew nothing of the true God. Furthermore, whoever worships God with-

The Unknown God

out any certainty worships his own inventions instead of God... The true rule of godliness is to have a clear knowledge of the God we worship.”¹

There are millions who know nothing of the God of the Bible. Equally tragic, many professing Christians make little effort to truly grow in their knowledge of God and this shows up in complacency on the part of some and carnality on the part of others. Personal consecration,² conviction and commitment are developed and driven by personal knowledge of God. II Peter 1:1-4 “Simon Peter, a *bondservant* and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, *through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue*, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” We have all that we need to grow—His all-sufficient Word and His Holy Spirit to teach us and to guide us. The question we each must answer is whether we are taking the Word of God seriously enough to be growing in godliness and showing that growth in our daily lives!

1 Crossway Classic Commentary 2 “Setting apart to serve” Unger