

THE GREETER
Sugar Grove Christian Church



3841 Stepstone Road Owingsville, Ky. 40360. 606 922-2812
Restoring New Testament Christianity- Centered in Christ- Focused on
Winning the world. www.sugargrovechristianchurch.org wfmex@hotmail.com

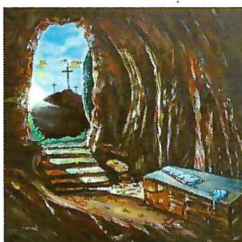
A LANDMARK SERMON Acts 17

When citing great sermons of the Bible, most would speak of Jesus' revolutionary Sermon on the Mount or Peter's first gospel message at Pentecost. But another message recorded in Acts 17 by Paul at Athens marks a turning point in the spread of the church. Paul invades the very center of culture and education to talk with the great thinkers of the day. He notices a temple to the Unknown God, among the many shrines to the various "gods." Then he declares that he is there to present that message of the unknown God, the real true God, maker of heaven and earth. This marks the penetrating influence of the idea of monotheism into that Greek world. In the message, Paul tells us that not all religious thinking is truth. God created all things and sent his Son, Jesus of Nazereth as the Christ to pay for our sins that God will no longer overlook. He called the people to do what all of us must do when we hear that message, Repent! When Paul reached the point about Jesus' death then resurrection, the people were startled at such an assertion. But the evidence is strong he said, Christ arose. Jesus is who He said he was and the Messiah the apostles were to declare to the world. The reaction of those people of Athens is similar to what we see today—The Bible says, some mocked and left; some were interested and wanted to hear more; some accepted, repented and joined in accepting Christ as Savior and Lord. The ancient Greeks obviously loved building monuments, temples to their Gods. In our culture we like to build memorials to our great past leaders. My many trips to Washington, remind me of our way of remembering people. This episode should also be an illustration to us that as Paul says, Our Lord doesn't need temples made of stone. But His memorial is our dedication to meeting him around the Lord's table each first day of the week, where the church remembers Jesus' death for our sins. And we note of course that human memorials are erected to honor the dead, our living memorial of the partaking together of the loaf and cup, represents a remembrance of death, yes, but as Paul says, Jesus is alive, because he rose again and we show forth His death around His table til He comes again .



THE IMPERISHABLE WORD OF GOD

Jesus proclaimed that heaven and earth will eventually pass away, but My word will not pass away. (Mk 13:31) We have an eternal truth in the Bible. In I Peter 1:22-25, we have three things that the word will produce. It produces Purification, but only if we are willing to trust and obey. It is important and scriptural that we must obey the word in order to grow into a pure life. The Word produces Love. When we obey God's will, we will have a strong love for others. Jesus commanded us "to love others as I have loved you." Love is truly the defining mark of someone who has been cleansed by the word. A heart that obeys God will always be a thing of loving and serving others. The Word also produces Eternity. "For you have been born again, of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. Like grass, we wither away but the word of the Lord stands forever. When we respond to the word, with a life of faithful obedience, there is therefore, treasure laid up for you in heaven. Jesus is coming again.



WHOSOEVER LIVES AND BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NEVER DIE,
EVEN THOUGH DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE,
THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS AN HISTORIC FACT ON
WHICH OUR CHRISTIANITY STANDS. THE TOMB IS EMPTY.
THE WOMEN AND DISCIPLES SAW HIM AND AS MANY AS 500
AT ONE TIME. THE DISCIPLES AND EARLY CHRISTIANS GAVE
THEIR LIVES AND TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN WITH
THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION.

Spring
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CHURCH MEMBER CHECK LIST

FRIENDLINESS

- I seek out, shake hands and greet newcomers, and write down their name to remember it.
- I help them locate classes, sit with them, and invite them to other activities.
- I give any information to the minister and leaders, so they may follow-up.

STEWARDSHIP

- I give regularly, proportionately and systematically to the finances of the church.
- I make sure my church also benefits, when my income increases, and when I miss a service, I make up the offering the next week.
- I keep informed about where the money is going and the special needs of the church.

SUPPORT

- I give my spiritual and prayer support to the leaders of the church.
- I offer to do my part, to help with projects, classes, and activities of the church.
- I make suggestions kindly and offer to initiate programs that might be needed.

UNITY

- I seek to encourage all those involved in church activities, looking for the best in others and refusing to participate in gossip, backbiting and criticism.
- I strive to work well with others, in a loving, Christ-like, polite manner.
- I share any concerns I have directly with those leaders or individuals involved.

WORSHIP

- I attend and approach each service in a reverent and prayerful manner, giving my full attention.
- I participate in the service enthusiastically and focus my thoughts on Christ.
- I offer to use my talents, music or other, to enhance services.

KNOWLEDGE

- I utilize every opportunity to attend classes to improve my knowledge of the Bible.
- I read my Bible and other good Christian literature regularly. I understand the ordinances of the church- Baptism (immersion of penitent believer for remission of sins) and Lord's supper- (weekly observance of the memorial emblems)

EVANGELISM

- I seek to further the mission of the church by inviting friends, neighbors to services each week, and contact absent members to let them know they are missed.
- I know how to show, from the Bible, what a person must do to be saved.
- I support all mission efforts to reach the world and fulfill Christ's great commission.

BENEVOLENCE

- I understand the call, as a Christian, to help others in time of need, in the name of Jesus.
- I visit, pray for, and minister to the sick, shut-in, the troubled, imprisoned, the needy.
- I give of my time and resources to relieve suffering worldwide.

PERSONAL LIFE

- I realize others are watching my life as a Christian, and understand my duty to live in accordance with the moral principles of the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- I repent and pray for forgiveness of my sin with humility and forgive others who may wrong me.
- I work to keep my family life strong, and business and personal dealings honest and pure.