

Group Resource

**Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 14, 2012**

**FINDING THE ONE AND TRUE GOD**

**Message:** “God, The Master Craftsman”

**Scripture:** Acts 17:26-28

While many people live life as helpless before an impersonal fate, those who put their hope and trust in God realize that He has a plan for our lives that is bigger than any one of us. When the path of God’s plan seems to go off-script, seek the Lord and He will be found and direct you throughout the journey of life.

- I. Over 2000 years after the Apostle Paul shared his message to the Areopagas at Mars Hill (Acts 17), we still live with some of the same dark spiritual realities of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century church. Some of us feel that life is more about chance and self-effort rather than living in a reality that God has taken everything in consideration for this life.
- II. In reality, practical atheism exists in many of us who profess ourselves to be Bible-believing Christians. “We believe that God exists but we live as if He didn’t.”
- III. If we believe in God, we have to acknowledge that God has a plan for our lives that is bigger than any one of us. How can we know that God’s plan is the best plan for our lives?
  - a. Consider the alternative plans. While other plans for our lives may sound enticing, they don’t answer the question of meaning but avoid the question by making everything a product of random chance or our own ingenuity.
  - b. Consider the source. God’s plan for our lives is created by the sovereign, all-powerful, all-knowing God of the universe. He is extremely qualified to direct our lives.
  - c. Consider the master craftsmanship that God has exercised with his creation. God’s plan started with Adam; He desired to give Adam everything that he needed to sustain his life. Adam chose the one thing that he couldn’t have over the millions of things that God had already provided for him.
- IV. We have to deal with the stark reality that as we walk out God’s plan for our lives, there will be times where we don’t understand all of the details of His plan.
  - a. ***God doesn’t give us every piece of the plan because it’s a part of God’s bigger plan to maintain an intimate relationship with his creation.***
    - a. Paul affirms that if we SEEK HIM, we will FIND HIM. The reality is that God is not far from us in the midst of our struggles but sometimes we need to reach out to realize that he is right there with us. (Acts 17:27)
    - b. When we find God, He will answer us and tells us great and unsearchable things we do not know. (Jeremiah 33:2-3)
    - c. If you can live and move and have your being without God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as a part of it, you are living outside of God’s plan for your life and you have created your own alternative to the true and living God.

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## Let's Talk Notes – Week of October 14, 2012

**Message:** “God, the Master Craftsman”

**Scripture:** Acts 17:26-28

- 1) Have you ever created something from scratch that you were really proud of making? If not, is there something that you would like to build, create, refurbish, or make?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp? Were you challenged in any area of your personal walk with God?
- 3) How did your upbringing shape your idea of success? Did your family focus more on (a) chance and luck; (b) hard work; (c) accomplishments and popularity; (d) Godly provision or (e) something else? Do you have the same or a different perspective now?
- 4) List at least 3 times in which God has demonstrated that He has taken everything in consideration for your life? If you are comfortable, share at least one of those experiences with the group. List 1 or 2 areas that presently you are struggling to understand how God's plan fits in the situation?
- 5) **Read Proverbs 21:30-31.** What insight does this scripture provide about God's plans and our plans? How can we dream and plan within God's bigger plan?
- 6) In the Message paraphrase of Matthew 6:33 it says, “*Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.*” According to the Scriptures, what are some practical ways that you can seek God? Are there any methods that are not helpful in seeking God? What are ways that God reveals himself to us? Do you have any difficulty seeking God or understanding His revelation to us?
- 7) Pastor Joseph described practical atheism as believing that God exists but living as if He didn't. How can we go from being practical atheists to maturing believers? What does this change require of us? How willing are you to make some of those changes? (*If you feel comfortable, during the closing prayer time, you can pray with another member of your group for areas in your life that you might be struggling with implementing or changing*).