Uncertain – Week 4

“Unreceptive”

Acts 17:16 - 34

1. Paul traveled to Athens.

Acts 17:16 - 34

1. What Paul found:
* People far from God

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.* ***Acts 17:16***

* People who were unreceptive

*So, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.
 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.* ***Acts 17:17-18***

1. What Paul did:
* Took the opportunity

*Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?
 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean."  (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)* ***Acts 17:19-21***

* Knew where to start

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.*

***Acts 17:22-23***

* Stayed on message

 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.
**Acts 17:24-25**

* Trusted God for the results

 *When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." At that, Paul left the Council.  A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.* ***Acts 17:32-34***

1. Remember, this is God’s message.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."* ***Romans 1:16-17***