

*Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.*

What were these people doing that the apostle Paul condemned as too superstitious?

They were ignorantly (not knowing the truth of salvation) attempting to worship God through statues and images they had made. These became objects of worship that they would pray to and bow down to.

God calls this idolatry.

*Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.*

The Apostle Paul condemns all worship of objects “like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device” (Acts 17:29b) as idolatry.

*Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

*Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

Paul went on to lovingly preach the way of true salvation through Jesus Christ; and much like today, some heard while others mocked and continued in their idolatry.

The same choice is presented to you today.

There is only one way to God and one mediator between God and man- Jesus Christ. There is no other person or thing that can save us or even help save us.

*1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

Jesus told us over and over in the scriptures that we are to pray to God in His (Jesus') name alone.

*John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

*John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

*John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*

*John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:*

*Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

There is only one way to come to the Father, because there is only one person who ever willingly shed His own sinless blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

That is God's own Son, Jesus Christ, the lamb without spot or blemish.

*John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Only by the shedding of His own righteous blood can our sins be covered. According to God's word, without the sacrifice of blood, there is NO forgiveness of sin.

*Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

We have all willingly chosen to sin against God. We have all come short of His perfect righteousness. Not one of us is righteous.

No matter how we try to live righteously or offer works of righteousness to God, we simply cannot erase the sin that is ever-present within us.

Even the works that we do are tainted by our sin and unacceptable to God.

*Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

God calls us to repent of our sin against Him. To repent means to see our sin and idolatry as God does (filthy and wicked) and to have a genuine sorrow for our sin, as well as a desire to turn from it and to be reconciled to God.

Repentance does not save us but helps to prepare a broken and contrite heart which is then able to believe in the Savior He has provided.

*Psalms 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

When we repent and recognize our inability to make ourselves righteous through our own works, or through anyone else, and place our faith in Jesus Christ alone, His righteousness is credited to our account. Because of what He alone has done, God can then see us as righteous, even though we are not.

*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

*1 Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry.***

*Exodus 20:4 **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing** that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

*5 **Thou shalt not bow down thyself** to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*

*Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man {Jesus} whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (emphasis mine)*

**Today** is the day to repent and by faith, trust in the name of Christ alone to save you from your sins and reconcile you to God once for all.

*Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.***

*11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

*12 But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever,** sat down on the right hand of God;*

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son** shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*



Hebrews 3:15 “**To day** if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts...”

All scripture taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Bolding in any quotation indicates emphasis by the compiler