



## #30 - FINDING THE GOD WHO WANTS TO BE FOUND

### ➤ IF I AM TO FIND THE GOD WHO WANTS TO BE FOUND...

#### 1. IT WILL INVOLVE \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup> As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue... **Acts 17:1-2a** (NIV)

Every \_\_\_\_\_ who becomes a Christian in the NT...  
...involved a \_\_\_\_\_ who became a Christian in the NT.

So faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ. **Romans 10:19** (ICB)

He died for us so that we will...not for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose.... <sup>18</sup> All of this is a gift from our Creator God, who has pursued us and brought us into a restored and healthy relationship with Him.... And He has given us the same mission, the ministry of reconciliation, to bring others back to Him. **2 Corinthians 4:15,18** (VOICE)

#### 1. IT WILL INVOLVE \_\_\_\_\_.

...on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. **Acts 17: 2b-3** (NIV)

Paul replied, "No, Your Excellency Festus, I am not crazy. I speak the words of truth and reason. **Acts 26:25** (TP)

But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. **1 Peter 3:15** (NLT)

#### 2. IT WILL INVOLVE THINGS THAT SEEM \_\_\_\_\_.

While Paul was...in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers

began to debate 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. <sup>19</sup> 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?" <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." <sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> 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. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "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 human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'<sup>[b]</sup> As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." **Acts 17: 16-19, 21- 31** (NIV)

- It seems unreasonable to have my \_\_\_\_\_ disparaged.
- It seems unreasonable to believe in a \_\_\_\_\_ corpse.
- It seems unreasonable to believe I could be \_\_\_\_\_ but wrong.
- It seems unreasonable to believe that God brought me \_\_\_\_\_ today.
- It seems unreasonable to believe that ignorance \_\_\_\_\_ excuse.

#### 3. IT WILL INVOLVE MY \_\_\_\_\_.

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." <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people 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** (NIV)

- I can choose to be a \_\_\_\_\_ – "some of them sneered,"
- I can choose to be a \_\_\_\_\_ – "We want to hear you again."
- I can choose to be a \_\_\_\_\_ – "Some became followers..."