0

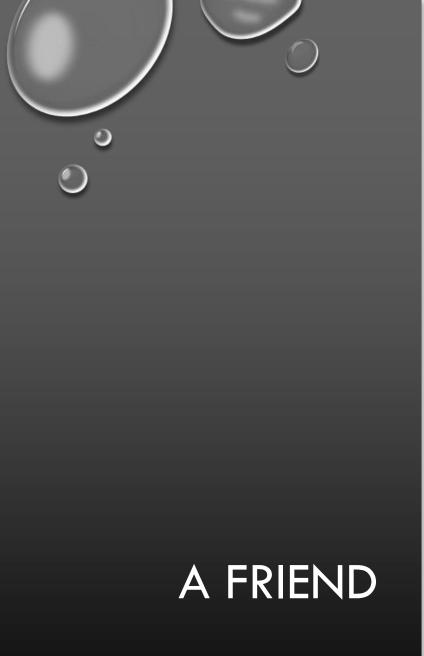
MERCY

ACTS 17 /18 ATHENS & CORINTH

 \bigcirc

0





GRACE IS A GIFT WE DON'T DESERVE, WHILE MERCY IS NOT GETTING THE PUNISHMENT WE DESERVE



AND YOU WERE DEAD IN THE TRESPASSES AND SINS IN WHICH YOU ONCE WALKED, FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD, FOLLOWING THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, THE SPIRIT THAT IS NOW AT WORK IN THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE — AMONG WHOM WE ALL ONCE LIVED IN THE PASSIONS **OF OUR FLESH, CARRYING OUT THE DESIRES** OF THE BODY AND THE MIND, AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH, LIKE THE REST **OF MANKIND.**



BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST — BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED — AND RAISED US UP WITH HIM AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS



NOW WHILE PAUL WAS WAITING FOR THEM AT ATHENS, HIS SPIRIT WAS PROVOKED WITHIN HIM AS HE SAW THAT THE CITY WAS FULL OF IDOLS. SO HE REASONED IN THE SYNAGOGUE WITH THE JEWS AND THE DEVOUT PERSONS, AND IN THE MARKETPLACE EVERY DAY WITH THOSE WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE.

NOW ALL THE ATHENIANS AND THE FOREIGNERS WHO LIVED THERE WOULD SPEND THEIR TIME IN NOTHING EXCEPT TELLING OR HEARING SOMETHING NEW.



BEING THEN GOD'S OFFSPRING, WE OUGHT NOT TO THINK THAT THE DIVINE BEING IS LIKE GOLD OR SILVER OR STONE, AN IMAGE FORMED BY THE ART AND **IMAGINATION OF MAN. THE TIMES OF IGNORANCE GOD OVERLOOKED, BUT NOW HE COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO REPENT, BECAUSE HE HAS** FIXED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN **RIGHTEOUSNESS BY A MAN WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED; AND OF THIS HE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE** TO ALL BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD."



AND HE REASONED IN THE SYNAGOGUE EVERY SABBATH, AND TRIED TO PERSUADE JEWS AND **GREEKS. WHEN SILAS AND TIMOTHY ARRIVED FROM** MACEDONIA, PAUL WAS OCCUPIED WITH THE WORD, **TESTIFYING TO THE JEWS THAT THE CHRIST WAS** JESUS. AND WHEN THEY OPPOSED AND REVILED HIM, HE SHOOK OUT HIS GARMENTS AND SAID TO THEM, "YOUR BLOOD BE ON YOUR OWN HEADS! I AM INNOCENT. FROM NOW ON I WILL GO TO THE **GENTILES.**"



AND HE LEFT THERE AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF A MAN NAMED TITIUS JUSTUS, A WORSHIPER OF GOD. HIS HOUSE WAS NEXT DOOR TO THE SYNAGOGUE. CRISPUS, THE RULER OF THE SYNAGOGUE, BELIEVED IN THE LORD, TOGETHER WITH HIS ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD. AND MANY OF THE CORINTHIANS HEARING PAUL BELIEVED AND WERE BAPTIZED.



AND THE LORD SAID TO PAUL ONE NIGHT IN A VISION, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, BUT GO ON SPEAKING AND DO NOT BE SILENT, FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND NO ONE WILL ATTACK YOU TO HARM YOU, FOR I HAVE MANY IN THIS CITY WHO ARE MY PEOPLE." AND HE STAYED A YEAR AND SIX MONTHS, TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD AMONG THEM.