



CHANGED PEOPLE

ACTS

CHANGING THE WORLD

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens,
he was deeply troubled by all the idols he
saw everywhere in the city. (Acts 17:16 NLT)



#1. We cannot allow anger burn bridges that might connect people to Jesus.

¹⁵If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.
(1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT)

“⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”
(Colossians 4:5-6 NLT)

¹⁷ He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. ¹⁸ He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.”

(Acts 17:17-18 NLT)

#2: We need to know the
Gospel Truth

God's Character

Offence of Sin

Sufficiency of Christ

Personal Response

Eternal Urgency

Life Transformation

Atheism

Agnosticism

Narcissism

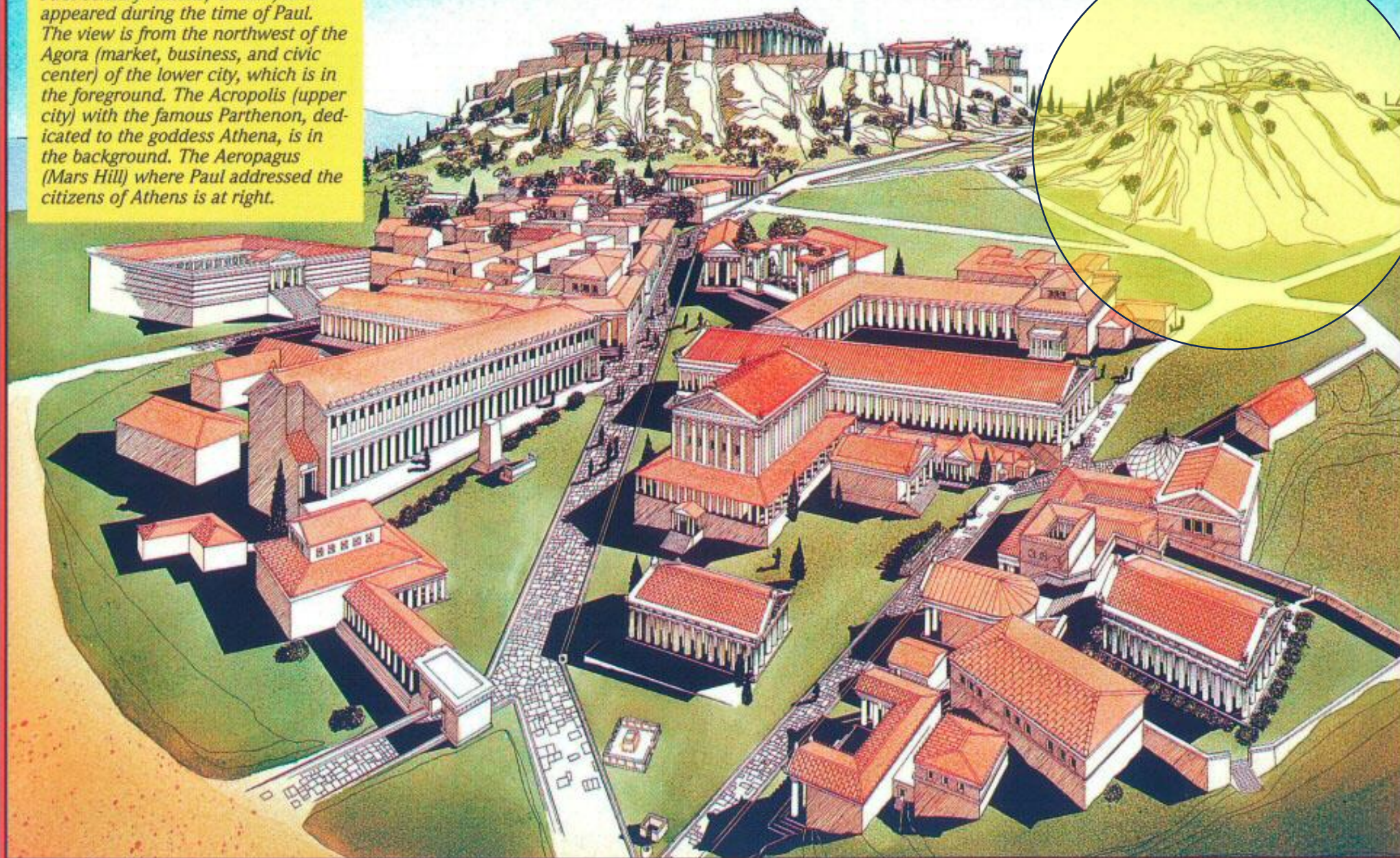
Pluralism

Secular-Humanism

³ We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT)

First-century Athens, Greece, as it appeared during the time of Paul. The view is from the northwest of the Agora (market, business, and civic center) of the lower city, which is in the foreground. The Acropolis (upper city) with the famous Parthenon, dedicated to the goddess Athena, is in the background. The Aeropagus (Mars Hill) where Paul addressed the citizens of Athens is at right.



²² So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, ²³ for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.

²⁴ “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. ²⁶ From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

²⁷ “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ ²⁹ And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

³⁰ “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. ³¹ For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:22-31 NLT)

#3: We need to understand what
people believe.

“They fashioned a tomb for thee, O holy and high one—The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies! But thou art not dead; thou livest and abidest forever, For in thee we live and move and have our being.”

(Epimenides of Crete)

“Everywhere everyone is indebted to Zeus.
For we are indeed his offspring.”
(Phainomena by the Stoic poet Aratus)

#4. We need to give people a proper map to Jesus.

³² When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.” ³³ That ended Paul’s discussion with them, ³⁴ but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

(Acts 17:32-34 NLT)

Pray
Ask
Study
Engage