



# To Each One *“Jealous for God”*

Acts 17

# Celebrating New Year

2020



2021



# Proverbs 27:4

Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?



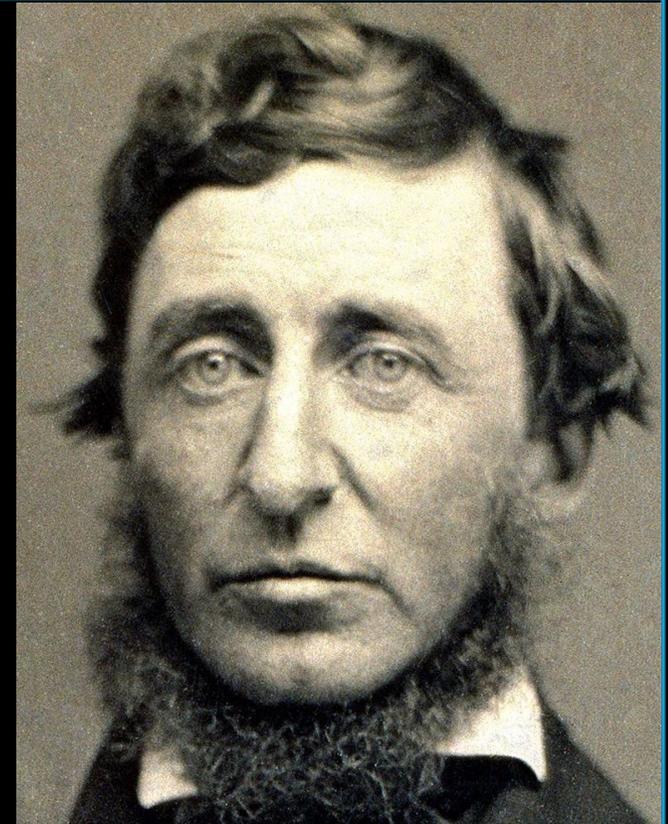
# Exodus 34:14

...for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—



“I went into the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life... to put to rout all that was not life; and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

- Henry David Thoreau



“Fully alive people are those who are using all of their human faculties, powers and talents. They are using them to the full. These individuals are fully functioning in their external and internal resources. Such people are vibrantly alive in mind, heart, and will.

There is an instinctive fear in most of us to travel with our engines at full throttle. We prefer, for the sake of safety, to take life in small, dainty doses.”

- John Powell





**Bruce Lee**

“The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus.”



Christ was the author of Paul's life: "To me, to live at all is Christ."

Christ was the sustainer of his life: "To me, to continue to live is Christ."

Christ was the law of his life: "The principle by which I live is Christ."

Christ was the product of his life: "To me, to live is to reproduce Christ."

Christ was the aim of his life: "To me, to live is to lead others to Christ."





# Acts 17:1-4

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” <sup>4</sup> And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.



# Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.



# Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



# Isaiah 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



# 1 Peter 3:15

...honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,



# Acts 17:5-9

But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” <sup>8</sup> And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.



# Jeremiah 12:5 NASB

If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?



“Tonight Shanghai is burning, and we are dying too.  
What bomb more surely mortal than death inside of  
you?

For some men die by shrapnel, and some go down in  
flames,

But most men perish inch by inch, in play at little  
games.”



## Acts 17:10-15

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. <sup>12</sup> Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.



## Acts 17:10-15

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. <sup>14</sup> Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. <sup>15</sup> Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.



“To believe every word of God is faith. To believe every word of man is credulity. Faith is a principle of infinite moment. Eternal life and death hang upon it. But it must be grounded upon evidence. And it can only be exercised according to the character and measure of the evidence.

An indiscriminate faith is therefore fraught with mischief. The world was ruined by this weakness (Genesis 3:1-6). And often since, it has been the occasion of sin, and even of downfall.”

- Charles Bridges





## Acts 17:16-21

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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.



## Acts 17:16-21

<sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.



# Temple of Mars



# The Acropolis



# The Parthenon



# The Areopagus (Mars Hill)



“The city was given over to ‘cultured paganism’ that was nourished by idolatry, novelty, and philosophy. The Greek religion was a mere deification of human attributes and the powers of nature. It was a religion which ministered to art and amusement, and was entirely destitute of moral power.”

- W.J. Conybeare, J.S. Howson





# Acts 17:22-34



## Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> Coming

glory veiled

as a lamb

to suffer

to serve

to save the world

to make atonement

## Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

glory revealed

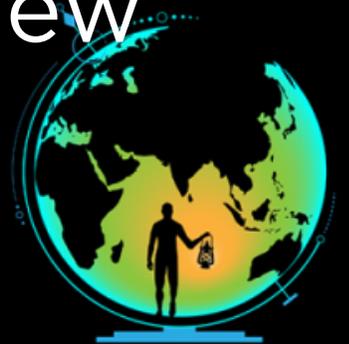
as a lion

to conquer

to reign

to judge the world

to make all things new



# Summary of Paul's Speech

1. God made the world, and everything in it.
2. He doesn't need you. He is the Giver; not you.
3. He's near. We underestimate just how close He really is.
4. He wants us to seek Him, and to find Him.
5. He controls the rise and fall of nations, all the national boundaries, and even my individual life.



# Summary of Paul's Speech

6. The solution to our ignorance is not information, but repentance and faith.
7. The reason we need to repent, is the coming Judgment.
8. The reason we're accountable, is the proof that God has given us, by raising Jesus from the dead.







Henry Martyn





Henry Martyn

“I could not endure existence, if Jesus was not glorified. It would be *hell* to me, if he were to be always so dishonored.”



- Am I a Berean, (a serious, daily student of God's Word), or am I just a casual reader?
- Am I equipped to give an answer to everyone who asks me to give a reason for the hope that I have in Christ?
- Does my view of God fully conform to what's revealed in the Bible, or like the Greeks, have I assumed things about God that really aren't true?



- What are the idols in my culture that are provoking me to jealousy? And what will I do about them?
- What are the idols in my own life that are provoking God to jealousy?
- How can I grow in understanding God's jealous love for me, and then jealously loving Him back, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?



