

THE REAL ROOTS OF THE EMERGENT CHURCH

➤ Roots of the Emergent Church and Reform Judaism is Stoicism & Epicureanism

➤ Reform Judaism:

➤ A lesser God, watered-down Holy Book, few absolutes

➤ Emergent Church:

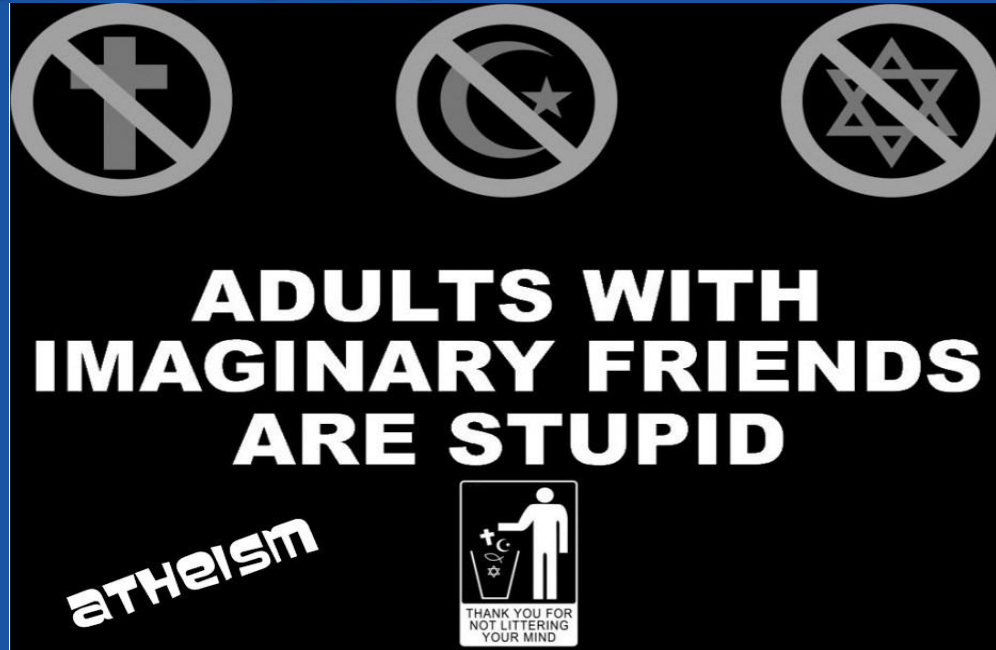
➤ A God of tolerance, Bible mostly optional, other Holy Books equal and worthy, each person discerns their own truth



REFORM
JUDAISM

PAUL ACCUSED OF INTRODUCING “FOREIGN GODS”

- Why would anyone fear something they say doesn't exist?
- Trying to rid Athens of religion
- They were loyal to Greece
- Liberal secularism is the modern Stoics
- Court of Areopagus
- Designed to regulate religion and morals
- Not a judicial trial



THE UNKNOWN GOD



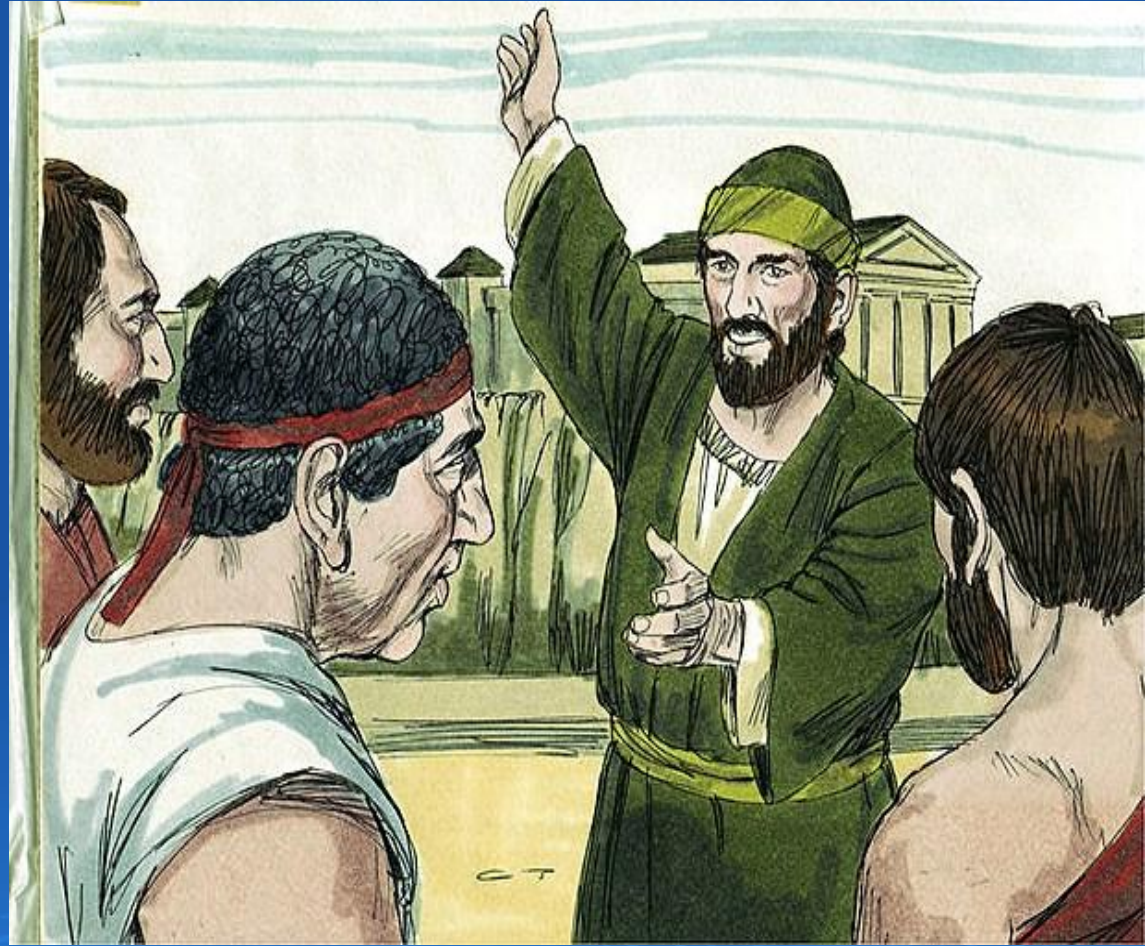
- Paul used to debates, confrontations
- Most Athenians were religious
- Paul, at first, doesn't offend the audience
- God created all things, so He doesn't live in manmade Temples
- God doesn't need humans, He is self-reliant



- Paul says the whole human race came from one individual
- Paul is subdued and gentle, begins at the beginning, doesn't use Scripture. Pagans know nothing of the Bible
- Paul speaking in ways the Athenians could understand
- ***“For in him we live and move and exist”*** Epimenides
- ***“We are actually his children”*** Cleanthes
- A case is being built to properly characterize God and how to worship Him

PAUL MAKES THE CASE FOR YESHUA

- God says the time for ignorance has passed, judgment of the world is coming
- “A man” will be the one through whom God will judge
- Athenians had to learn to turn from idols
- 1Thess.1:7 – 9
- Issue of resurrection was contentious; concept didn't exist in Greek thought
- Most rejected Paul, some accepted
- Dionysius of the court
- First Bishop of Athens



ACTS 18: CORINTH

- Paul didn't leave Athens in a state of riot!
- Paul arrived in Corinth in 50 A.D.
- A center of shipping and commerce
- 750,000 population
- Had a sizeable Jewish population
- Meets Aquila and Priscilla
- Priscilla = Prisca
- Jews expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius





As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [Claudius] expelled them [the Jews] from Rome

- Chrestus is likely Christ as the quote had to do with The Way interacting with local synagogues in Rome
- Expulsion had nothing to do with Judaism (religion), but rather that the Jewish people seemed troublesome
- Nero would later take advantage of the bad reputation the Jews had gained to blame them for bad policy decisions
- It was not “Christians” who were expelled; Rome as of yet still saw Believers as simply a sect of Judaism. Jews were lumped together regardless of faction

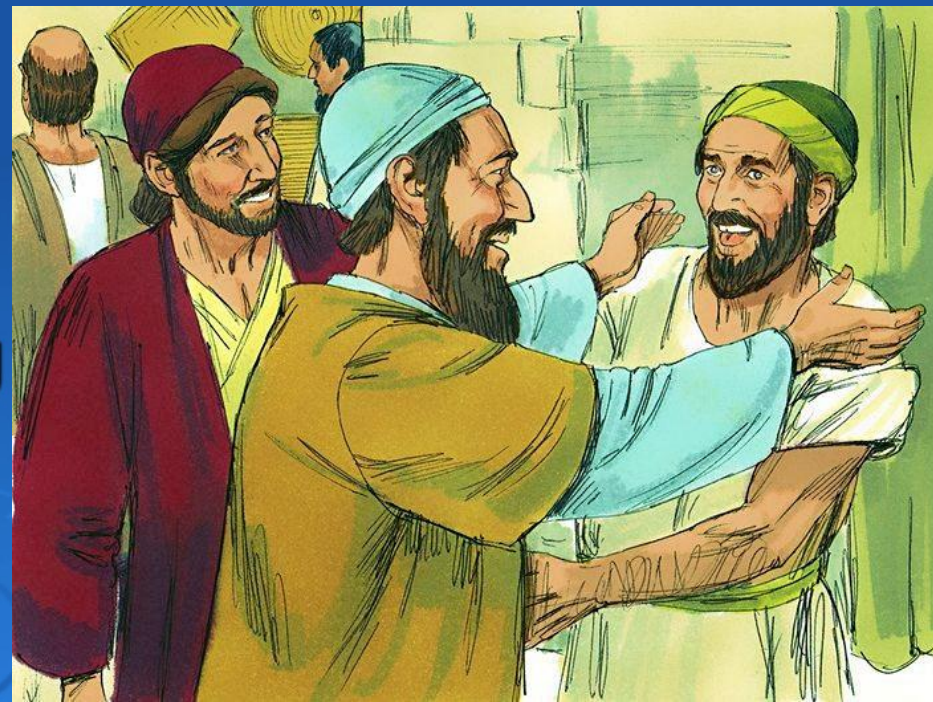
AQUILA, PRISCILLA & PAUL TENTMAKERS



- Paul was supporting himself with his trade
- Mishnah: *“Do not make the Torah...a spade with which to dig”*
- Being a Rabbi was not usually an occupation, it was an office
- Societal subdivision via Trade Guilds
- Roman citizens did not do manual labor
- Blue collar jobs went to Jews and other ethnic minorities

TIMOTHY AND SILA ARRIVE

- Paul went to synagogue in Corinth each Shabbat to teach
- Jews and Greeks in synagogue
- Timothy and Sila's presence seemed to allow Paul to spend more time preaching
- Paul taught the Jews using Scripture (as opposed to NOT using the Bible when teaching pagans)



“Your blood be on your own heads”

- Some of the Jews accepted Paul’s teaching, others rejected it
- Paul gave up on some of them
- “Blood on your own head” is a Torah concept about substitution
- Paul says in vs. 6 that he will now go to the *goyim* (gentiles)
- Does NOT mean he won’t evangelize Jews, but gentiles will be his priority

