

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"IN GOD WE LIVE, AND MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING"

"For in Him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'"

Acts 17:28

In Acts 17:16-34, the Apostle Paul presents a very compelling and clear presentation of God, our Creator. Paul was in Athens, Greece, and was greatly distressed because he saw that the city was full of idols. (Acts 17:16) Does this sound familiar as it relates to our world today? We have been privileged to visit Athens, which is truly a great, magnificent and historical city. The city is known for its philosophers, such as Plato and Aristotle, as well as for its beautiful architectural structures. And there, among the scholars and philosophers, Paul stood preaching the good news about Jesus and the Resurrection. (Acts 17:17-18) Wanting to know more about what he was teaching, Paul was invited to a meeting at the Areopagus, a place on Mars Hill, located near the Acropolis where "intellectuals" debated. Paul provide a prolific and clear message concerning life and salvation. Let us review a portion of it. *"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 hands."* (Acts 17:24)

We must remember that the structures designed and built by human hands must never be worshipped. In fact, they only exist and are maintained by God's power. Recall Psalm 127:1: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stands guard in vain."* Paul continued his argument, *"From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live."* (Acts 17:26) So true! When God made humanity, He created the human body with blood, organs, muscles, a brain, a skeletal frame and so much more. The human body is magnificent and mysterious. Thank God He has given us physicians, scientists, and researchers, among others, who continue trying to figure out how our bodies function so that diseases and illnesses can be conquered. During this coronavirus epidemic, our prayer is that a vaccine or remedy will be developed sooner rather than later. A theme we hear repeatedly is: "We are all in this together." So true, and we better believe it. But, do not miss the other important point Paul makes. God has determined the exact boundaries of our lives. Therefore, daily we acknowledge that *"in Him we live and move and have our being."* (Acts 17:28) Of course, this is a faith walk! Paul continued to explain. *"God did this so that men and women would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."* (Acts 17:27). Beautiful, is it not? "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and the door shall be opened." (St. Matthew 7:7-8) God, our Creator, wants a close and personal relationship with each one of us. How amazing and how wonderful! Thank you, Apostle Paul, for making it so clear for us. Yes, God woke me up this morning, He started me on my way, and He keeps me every day.

Prayer

Our Great Creator,
In you, we live and move and have our being. Please help us to share the good news of the gospel with others. We are so glad that we are saved! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
