



# Thru God's Eye: Life in the REAL World

## Opening Eyes

### Helping Others Discover Life in the REAL World

Crossroads, November 6, 2011 - Mark Bickel



**Intro:** (excerpts from "Life After God" by Douglas Coupland)

### Paul Shares Gospel in Athens - Acts 17:16-34

- **Sees with God's Eyes:**

**16** 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**.

- **Talks to everyone – Devout and Pagan alike:**

**17** 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.

- **Talks to the "post-modern, Tolerant, Pluralists " of His day**

**18** Some of the **Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** also conversed with him.

- **People Biblically Illiterate ... But Interested in New things**

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

- **Observing the Culture, and Starting Where People Are**

**22** So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, **I perceive that in every way you are very religious.** **23** For as I passed along and **observed the objects of your worship**, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.'

- **Tell them about the God they are really looking for**

What therefore you worship as unknown, **this I proclaim to you.**

- **The Self-existing, Creating, Sustaining and Ruling God**

**24** The God **who made the world** and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does **not live in temples** made by man, **25** nor is he served by human hands, **as though he needed anything**, since he himself **gives to all mankind life** and breath and everything.

- **God of All**

**26** And **he made** from one man **every nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

- **Imminent God ... To Be Worshipped by All**

**27 that they should seek God**, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually **not far from each one of us**, **28** for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

- **Not the God of our Imagination**

**29** 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.

- **Repent, Judgment Coming**

**30** The times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31** 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."

- **The Heart of the Gospel – the Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

**32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead  
**18** ....because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

- **The People Respond .... In Three Ways**

**32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked**. But **others said, "We will hear you again about this."** **33** So Paul went out from their midst. **34** But **some men joined him and believed**, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## **Conclusions / Practical Applications**

### **Recommended Listening**

2011 NEXT Worldview Conference Audio (free at [www.thisisnext.org](http://www.thisisnext.org) under Resources)

God on the World: The Bible's Framework for a Christian Worldview - Jeff Purswell

Think or Believe? The Role of Reason in the Life of Faith - Scott Oliphint

**The Gospel and the Postmodern Mind - D.A. Carson**

The Reality of Truth in a World of Relativism - R.C. Sproul

Who am I? Humanity in the Eyes of the World and the Christian - Kevin DeYoung

Breakout - Science & Faith - Vern Poythress

Breakout - The New Atheists - Nathan Sasser

Breakout - Can We Trust Our Bibles? - Peter Williams

Breakout - Jesus and Other Religions - Kevin DeYoung

**NEXT WEEK:** Seeing God in Mongolia ... Global Outreach Conference (see separate brochure)



## November Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>6</b> <b>10 am Celebration</b> <b>Worship &amp; Lunch</b>  <b>6:30 Crossroads</b> Opening Eyes: Helping Others Discover Life in the REAL World	<b>7</b> <b>6:00</b> <b>Sports</b> Basketball in Grace Gym	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>8:00</b> <b>Bible Study</b> "Weird" - Sexuality	<b>11</b> <b>** BFC</b> Tanzania Banquet	<b>12</b> <b>** Q.Town</b> Conf. on Reformed Theology
<b>13</b> <b>9 am Missions</b> <b>Worship &amp; Café'</b>  <b>6:30 Crossroads</b> <b>** Missions Night -</b> Warners (Mongolia), Josh Mills, Skype with Andrew & Jess	<b>14</b> <b>6:00</b> <b>Sports</b> Basketball in Grace Gym	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Missions:</b> 5:30 – meal 7 - program	<b>17</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> Missions week	<b>18</b> <b>Missions:</b> 7 - program	<b>19</b> <b>Missions:</b> 8:30 – prayer breakfast  5 – dinner & <b>missions fest.</b>
<b>20</b> <b>6:00 International</b> <b>Student Thanks-</b> <b>giving Dinner</b> at Widener	<b>21</b> <b>6:00</b> <b>Sports</b> Basketball in Grace Gym	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> Thanksgiving	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>

### Upcoming Events

#### **November 13-20 – Global Outreach Conference**

See Brochure for Details

#### **Sunday, November 20 at 6:00 pm @ Widener**

International Student Thanksgiving

Cooks and set-up people needed, see Emily

### Stay in Touch!

Web: [GraceBFC.org/Crossroads](http://GraceBFC.org/Crossroads)  
 Facebook: Crossroads Young Adult Community  
 Email: [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org)

### Mark Your Calendars

#### **February 10-12, 2012**

Crossroads Winter Retreat

#### **June 8-10, 2012**

BFC Young Adults Retreat

### Other Events of Interest

- \*\* BFC Tanzania Project Banquet:** Friday  
night Nov. 11, Cedar Crest BFC, Allentown
- \*\* Quakertown Regional Conference on  
Reformed Theology: Our Great God**  
– Fri. night Nov. 11 and Sat. Nov. 12
- \*\* Mark Bickel is attending both events**