






What Would God Say if He Spoke at Harvard?

"The Life of Paul" episode 25

Acts 17:16-34

"Athens was the intellectual center of the world. The city of the Academy. The birthplace of democracy....The city was a philosopher's dream. Wealthy families sent their children to Athens to learn philosophy and to be enriched by ear-tickling myths of fanciful gods and goddesses. The native home of Socrates and Plato, Athens was also the adopted home of Aristotle and Epicurus.... The final voice of authority on all this high-brow philosophizing came from the direction of the Areopagus, the hill of Mars, which still stands in solid marble today. In that lofty place sat philosophers and scholars, teachers and historians, each of them so unsettled and unsure in their thinking that no room was allowed for anything absolute. Truth to them was relative. Dogmatism amounted to intellectual suicide....[Paul's] spirit ached for the spiritual blindness and emptiness of the Athenians....His attempts to penetrate the darkness proved unsuccessful."

Charles Swindoll, *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit*, 2002

-  **"Because I'm the Creator and Source of everything,
I don't _____ anything you have to offer me."** v. 24-25
*Talking point: God the transcendent Creator
-  **"Because I'm the R _____ of all humanity,
what you need to seek is Me--and I'm easy to find."** v. 26-27
*Talking point: God the immanent (nearby) Lord
-  **"Because I made you to be my ch _____,
you need a personal relationship with Me."** v. 28-29
*Talking point: God the personal Revealer
-  **"Because I've disclosed Myself to you,
I _____ is no longer an excuse."** v. 29-30
*Talking point: God the one-and-only Deity
-  **"Because I'm about to judge the world
by the Savior I resurrected,
you had better do a _____."** v. 30-31
*Talking point: God the coming Judge