THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE AT MARS HILL

By Keith Greer

Today, we examine the three different classes of people who heard Paul's sermons at Mars Hill in Athens.

Mockers. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked ..." {Acts 17:32} The word mock means" to treat with ridicule or contempt; deride." The mockers discounted Paul's teaching regarding the resurrection. Many today make mockery of the truth in God's word. Yet, one day - when they die or the Lord returns - the mockers will come to know the truth! At this very moment, no mockers are in the graves-they've all been silenced.

Procrastinators. " … while others said, We will hear you again on this matter." {Acts 17:32} The word procrastinate means" to put off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness; to postpone or delay needlessly." We have no record of these men ever having another opportunity to hear the gospel. Unfortunately, many today have this same mindset. "I plan to obey the gospel, someday." "Yes, I know I need to correct my life, and I will at a later time." Please read 2 Corinthians 6:2. When dealing with your soul's eternal destiny, you need to make the decision sooner—not later!

Believers. "However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them." {Acts 17:34} Some heard Paul's sermon, examined the evidence, and obeyed the gospel. These people had good and honest hearts.

Today, the gospel still has these same effects on those who hear it proclaimed. Some mock; some put off any action; and others obey immediately. Why? Each has their own reasons in their own minds. One thing is clear—two of the three see no urgency in rendering obedience to the will of God. Satan does a very good job of distracting many from seeing the need for God in their lives. God gave us free moral agency in determining the action to take when we hear the gospel. Dear reader, what choices have you made after hearing God's truth? Into which hearing class do you fall? ***