



**Teachings for
an Unbelieving World**
*Newly Discovered Reflections on
Paul's Sermon at the Aeropagus*
By St. John Paul II
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*"This book is one of the
great hidden treasures
unearthed in our time."*

From the introduction by
SCOTT HAHN
Catholic theologian, author,
and speaker

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

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Please note: Jaymie Stuart Wolfe, the book's editor at Ave Maria Press, is available for interviews.

NEWLY DISCOVERED WORK BY JOHN PAUL II FOCUSES ON A CULTURE OF UNBELIEF

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—*Teachings for an Unbelieving World* is a newly discovered work written by St. John Paul II—then Archbishop Karol Wojtyła of Kraków—in the years just after Vatican II. He uses St. Paul's sermon to the people of Athens in Acts 17 as a framework for articulating the faith in a culture of skepticism and unbelief. These thirteen brief reflections provide compelling teaching for Catholics in today's post-Christian world and give fresh insight into JPII's pontificate. This is the first English-language publication of this important work.

St. John Paul II composed these thirteen reflections at a unique moment of convergence in history—the closing of Vatican II in 1965 and the 1966 observance of one thousand years of Christianity in Poland.

Teachings for an Unbelieving World is an extended meditation on Acts 17 where Paul speaks to the cultural elite of Athens after he observed an altar of an unknown God in the city. Quoting from both the Bible and the documents of Vatican II, John Paul II draws timely wisdom from the apostle's mission to bring the truth of the Gospel to a worldly culture of sophistication and disbelief, one not unlike our own.

The future pope reveals Paul's memorable encounter as an enduring framework to boldly present the core truths of Catholic faith in the post-modern and atheistic communist regime he faced. In so doing, JPII demonstrates how relevant Paul's words are today and equips us to meet the challenges of proclaiming the faith in our times.

Teachings for an Unbelieving World affirms the continuity of Catholic faith about:

- our search for meaning, truth, and freedom,
- addressing a culture of unbelief,
- the role of the Church in the world,
- the power of the Eucharist, and
- the importance of prayer.

This book is being released during the centennial of JPII's birth.

Additional material includes a foreword by George Weigel and an introduction by Scott Hahn—both of which are exclusive to the English edition—and curator's notes by Marta Burghardt. A guide for individual or group study is also available at avemariapress.com.

"Here, then, is the antidote to modernity's tendency to dumb down the human person."

From the foreword by **GEORGE WEIGEL**
Distinguished Senior Fellow
and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies
Ethics and Public Policy Center



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

St. John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in Poland. Ordained in 1946, he was named bishop of Kraków in 1958 and archbishop in 1964. Wojtyła was an active participant in the Second Vatican Council, became a cardinal in 1967, and in 1978 was elected the first non-Italian pope in more than four hundred years. He died on April 2, 2005, and was canonized on April 27, 2014.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Hahn is a popular Catholic theologian, author, speaker, and apologist who founded the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology and teaches at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

George Weigel is a Catholic author, theologian, and distinguished senior fellow and the William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Polish professor and author **Marta Burghardt** is the curator of the original Polish manuscripts published in English as *Teachings for an Unbelieving World*.

"What a joy to read this newly discovered series of reflections on the famous passage in Acts where Paul speaks to the skeptical Greeks about the 'unknown God.' Each brief teaching is a gem, taking us ever-deeper into the mind of St. John Paul II and the mystery of salvation."

MARY ANN GLENDON
Professor of law
at Harvard University
Former US ambassador
to the Holy See

"The imperative to proclaim the Gospel to every creature resounds unceasingly: to those to whom the Gospel still is not known, to those who know it insufficiently or do not put it into practice enough, and finally to those who know it but, for various reasons, ignore it."

Excerpt from *Teachings for an Unbelieving World*
