



Jumping the Rapids

Acts 17:18 NIV

A group of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler saying?"

Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:19 NIV [amended]

Then they seized him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “We have a right to know what this new teaching is that you are presenting.”

Acts 17:22-23 NIV

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you."

Acts 17:24-25 NIV

“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 human hands. And he is not served by human hands as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself give everyone life and breath and everything else.”

Acts 17:26-28 NIV

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘we are his offspring’”

Acts 17:30-31 NIV

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance...”

“...but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:32b NIV

“We want to hear you again on this subject.”

Acts 17:34 NIV

Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.



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