

## Acts 17:16-23

### A Wild and Wonderful Idea

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So, he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbling trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) 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.”

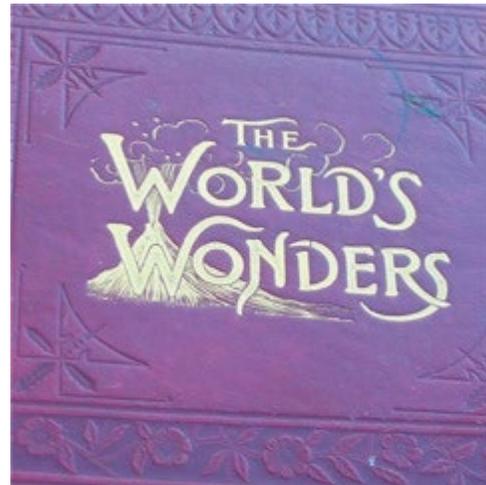


Photo: Salvation – A world wonder.

### Every Day with God

Paul is now in Athens spreading the good news. He sees a lot of idols that the people worship. He shows some respect for what they are doing by telling them they have an appreciation for religion. The Athenians had a penchant for new ideas, which is what Paul was preaching—he was preaching a new idea.

Think how difficult it must have been for someone to believe that a person could die, go to hell, and then rise again to save the world. That’s a pretty wild idea. Aren’t we lucky to know the message of salvation that was preached by Paul so many years ago. That’s wild, but wonderful.

**Prayer:** Thanks, God, for your wild but wonderful idea.