



OUT OF THE HARBOR





OUT OF THE HARBOR

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

ACTS 17:16



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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.

ACTS 17:17



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A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

ACTS 17:18



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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 17:18



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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?”

ACTS 17:19



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”

ACTS 17:20



OUT OF THE HARBOR

(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

ACTS 17:21



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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.

ACTS 17:22



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“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 17:23



OUT OF THE HARBOR

Paul responded to
people with engagement,
not isolation or
condemnation. (17:16,17)



Thessalonica

Berea

Corinth

Athens



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Why was he so upset? Because the honor due God, the only God, his God, was being prostituted for stones and statues. Paul was jealous for God.”

JOHN STOTT



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man...



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“When this age is over and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever...”



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal in missions. It’s the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God...



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship preceded the offer of God in preaching. You can’t commend what you don’t cherish...”



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Missionaries will never all out ‘Let the nations be glad!’ who cannot say from the heart, ‘I rejoice in the Lord’ (Psalm 104:34; 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship.”

JOHN PIPER



OUT OF THE HARBOR

One of the greatest barriers we face in our day is the conspiracy of silence: the almost universally-accepted notion that issues of faith and religion are taboo in daily life.



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Paul knows his own message and the mentality of the people he evangelizes. Too many Christians know their own message but understand far too little about how and why others think as they do...”



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Sometimes we Christians are so angry at the state of our society that all that comes through is the anger and not the love we are to have for our neighbor in need.”

DARRELL BOCK



OUT OF THE HARBOR

Paul was adaptable in
his methods, places,
and audiences. (17:17)



OUT OF THE HARBOR

Paul anticipated questions, objections, and challenges.

He did not view Gospel presentation as a tweet.



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

ACTS 13:38



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the Law of Moses.”

ACTS 13:39



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.”

ACTS 14:15





OUT OF THE HARBOR

“The Christian Gospel is meant for everybody, Jew and Gentile, educated and barbarian, male and female, bond and free. Salvation indeed comes from the Jews; its source lies in a Man born under the Law. But it is designed for the whole world.”

MICHAEL GREEN



OUT OF THE HARBOR

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19



OUT OF THE HARBOR

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the Law I became like one under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law), so as to win those under the Law.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:20



OUT OF THE HARBOR

To those not having the Law I became like one not having the Law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the Law.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:21



OUT OF THE HARBOR

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22



OUT OF THE HARBOR

I do all this for the sake of the Gospel,
that I may share in its blessings.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:23



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“People come to know God only when they abandon their preconceived notions about God, when they relinquish their criteria and their standards for divine behavior and action, when they let God be God.”

ECKHARD SCHNABEL



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“The Epicureans said ‘Enjoy life!’
and the Stoics said ‘Endure life!’
but it remained for Paul to explain
how they could enter into life
through faith in God’s risen Son.”

WARREN WIERSBE



OUT OF THE HARBOR

Paul was
uncompromising with
the core elements of
his message. (17:18)



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“The Christians of the first centuries... wanted to convert pagans to faith in Jesus Christ because they were convinced that this was the only way for them to find forgiveness for their sins and to have eternal life...”



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“The Christian message was not ‘politically correct’ in the first century, and it is not politically correct today.”

ECKHARD SCHNABEL



OUT OF THE HARBOR

How many of you gave a Gospel presentation this past week?

How many had a spiritual conversation?

How many had an extended social conversation with a stranger?



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“There are many ways of getting into discussion; the crucial question is whether the Christian witness has a clear, relatively simple, straightforward grasp of what the Bible’s storyline is, and how the wonderful news of the Gospel fits powerfully into this true story.”

D.A. CARSON



OUT OF THE HARBOR

God / Man / Christ / Response



OUT OF THE HARBOR

God / Man / Christ / Response

**God created each of us in His
image. We are loved by Him
and accountable to Him.**



OUT OF THE HARBOR

God / Man / Christ / Response

**Man has rebelled against God
and, because of that sin, we
stand under His judgment.**



OUT OF THE HARBOR

God / Man / Christ / Response

**Through Jesus Christ — His life,
death, and resurrection — God
intervened in our desperate
plight and offers us salvation, the
forgiveness of sin, and new life.**



OUT OF THE HARBOR

God / Man / Christ / Response

This good news demands a response from each of us, and the appropriate response is repentance and faith.



OUT OF THE HARBOR

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

