



OUT OF THE HARBOR





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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.”

ACTS 17:23



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“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

The Reality of Religion



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The Reality of Religion

The Nature of God



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The Reality of Religion

The Nature of God

The Purpose of History



OUT OF THE HARBOR

The Reality of Religion

The Nature of God

The Purpose of History

The Necessity of Salvation



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The Pervasive Nature of Religion (17:22)

To be human is to orient your
life around the worship of
something or someone.



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*People pursue religion in order to
run to God and to run from God,
sometimes at the same time.*



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“Paul is not picking a fight in his evangelistic approach. He’s meeting people on their terms and in a way that is fair and acceptable to them.”

PASTOR ZAC HESS



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The Typical Speculation of Religion (17:23a)

Human worship reflects what
we believe is worthy of our
affections and allegiance.



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Any religious expression that results in or reflects worship of counterfeit gods (anyone other than the true God as revealed in Jesus Christ) is idolatry, even when cultures can explain or approve of it.



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“Idolatry is the attempt either to localize God or to alienate God. Idolatry tries to minimize the gulf between the Creator and His creatures...so that we presume to imagine that we can create and rule God.”

JOHN STOTT



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“The unknown god is a convenient object of belief, since its character is a matter for me to decide. It cannot challenge me or pose radical questions to me.”

LESLIE NEWBIGIN



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“People are not empty hard drives waiting for us to download our Christian files onto them. Rather, they have inevitably developed an array of alternative worldviews.”

D.A. CARSON

香光佛

蓮燈普耀參明妙諦群生齊步蓮

龍崗莊嚴廣布慈雲大地盡沾甘露

龍力寶祥宗法兩宏燄千光慶

龍蓮寺大雄寶殿





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The Christian Answer to Religion (17:23b)

God's revelation — ultimately in
Jesus — identifies the only worthy
object of our worship.



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Religious expression and worship are gifts from God when they find fulfillment in God himself rather than the frustration of empty ritual.



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For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry.

1 PETER 4:3



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Our hearts are restless until
they find their rest in You.”

AUGUSTINE



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.”

AUGUSTINE

*If Jesus is a square peg,
everything else is a round hole.*



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“Paul is not saying here that people can find God solely by following their felt needs and aspirations. They need the Gospel, which alone truly fulfills those needs and aspirations.”

AJITH FERNANDO



OUT OF THE HARBOR

“Christians must be sensitive to people’s needs and aspirations, see how Christ meets them, and use them as stepping stones for communicating the Gospel.”

AJITH FERNANDO

ION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION



Coeexist

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The word "Coeexist" is rendered in a stylized white font on a blue background. Each letter is filled with a different symbol: 'C' contains a crescent moon and a five-pointed star; 'o' contains a peace symbol; 'e' contains a female gender symbol; 'x' contains a Star of David; 'i' contains a yin-yang symbol; 's' contains a yin-yang symbol; and 't' contains a cross. A small star-in-a-circle icon is positioned above the 'i'.



OUT OF THE HARBOR

**Paul built Gospel
bridges on the
spiritual aspirations
of others.**



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**Only worship
of Jesus fulfills
a person's
aspirations.**



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**Do your life
and witness
communicate that?**



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