

Shaken and Found Faithful

The Bible, Part III

Pastor Jennifer Alessio | June 30, 2024

Main Text: Acts 17:19-34 NLT

“Then they took him to the high council of the city. ‘Come and tell us about this new teaching,’ they said. ‘You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it’s all about.’ (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.) So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: ‘Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about. He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs – for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him – though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.’ When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, ‘We want to hear more about this later.’ That ended Paul’s discussion with them, but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”

Acts 17:19-34 NLT

Thread: Clarity comes from placing your trust in the one true God.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 ESV

“Do not defile yourselves by turning to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead. I am the Lord your God.” **Leviticus 19:31 NLT**

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

Revelation 21:4 NLT

Clarity comes from placing your trust in the one true God.

“...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” **Hebrews 12:1 NLT**

The one true God brings clarity.

To receive that clarity, we need to untangle the knots:

1. Untangle the knots.
2. Clarity comes from repentance.
3. Clarity comes from committing to serve the one true God.
4. Clarity comes when we accept the truth of Scripture.
 - *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”* **Matthew 6:24 NLT**
 - *“But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waiver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.”* **James 1:6-8 NLT**

Challenge:

- How do my life choices and beliefs compare with the truth of Scripture? What knots do I need to untangle?
- What do I need to stop doing and what do I need to start doing to honor Christ?
- What is one thing that I can do this week to show my commitment to serving Christ?

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