

NEW LIFE: GOD'S PLAN  
 A SERMON ON ACTS 17:22-31

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MEETING GOD FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Paul is visiting Athens
- Accused for babbling & teaching foreign gods
- Asked to justify beliefs
- Paul's only missionary speech to non-believers

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MEETING GOD FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Paul establishes apostolic authority
- Excellent opening, clearly not babbling
- Refers to 'altar to unknown god', not a foreign deity

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MEETING GOD FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Paul introduces God
  - God created heaven & earth
  - God doesn't need anything from us
  - God expects us to seek Them



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MEETING GOD FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Paul tells of God's plan
  - God willing to overlook foolishness
  - God wants to reconcile through repentance
  - God wants transformative relationship with us



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OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

So God creates the universe...  
God tends the universe...  
God enlivens the universe...

*From "Song of Faith" (The Manual §2.6, lines 7-12)*



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OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God is creative and self-giving  
...  
Our first response to God's  
providence is gratitude.  
We sing thanksgiving.

*From "Song of Faith" (The Manual §2.6, lines 27-31)*



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OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God forgives,... God  
reconciles,... God transforms,...  
We sing of grace.

*From "Song of Faith" (The Manual §2.6, lines 82-93)*



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OUR RESPONSE TO GRACE

- Works of Piety
  - Express love & reverence for God
  - Flow from salvation, sign of salvation
  - Spirit transforms us



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OUR RESPONSE TO GRACE

- Works of Mercy
  - Work we do for others
  - Address physical, emotional, and spiritual needs
  - Helps us grow in relationship with God



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