

"We are here to just live and die. Life is a big fake. You're rich or poor. You're here and you're gone. The only cure for the world's illness is to wipe everything out and start over."

"To know and serve God, of course, is why we are here – a clear truth that, like the nose on your face, is near at hand and easily discernible but can make you dizzy if you try to focus on it too hard – but a little faith will see you through – what else except faith in such a cynical corrupt time? When the country goes temporarily to the dogs, cats must learn to be circumspect, to walk on fences, to sleep in trees and have faith that all this woofing is not the last word."

Life's Most Important Questions

Acts 17

Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men 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. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone — an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

I. Where Did I Come From?

Acts 17:24-25

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth ... He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

Colossians 1:16,17 (NIV)

For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible; all things were created by Him and for Him.

Psalms 139:14-16 (NIV)

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ...When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

II. Why Am I Here?

Acts 17:26-28

From one man he made every nation of men, ... God did this so that men would seek him ... 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Ephesians 2:10 (HCSB)

For we are His creation--created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

III. Where Am I Going?

Acts 17:30-31

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

Romans 14:12 (NIV)

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The Epitaph of Benjamin Franklin:

The body of B. Franklin, printer,
Like the Cover of an old book, its contents torn out,
Lies here food for the worms; But the work shall not be lost;
For it will appear once more, In a new and more elegant edition,
Revised and corrected by the Author.

Acts 17:32-34 (NIV)

"When they heard, ...some of them sneered, but others said, 'We want to hear you again on this subject.' At that, Paul left the Council. A few men became followers and believed."