

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The
Mission
of
FBCWR:
To present the Lord Jesus
Christ: His work
on the
cross
and
His in-
dwelling
power
to meet
man's
needs.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

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New Twist on an Old Angle

Acts 17:19-21— "And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean." (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)



In the great ancient city of Athens, Paul is ushered onto the stage at the Aeropagus—a huge hall which hosted a regular event which was a cross between "Nightline" and "The Tonight Show". The apostle had become an overnight sensation for one simple reason—his message was new. That's it—just *new!* The very cradle of our Greco-Roman western culture and civilization seemed to have its collective ear to the ground, evidently open to something better and more lasting. Aristotle, Plato, Socrates? They were so last year. The old had gotten old. Been there. All those gods—the Parthenon, Homer and the Odyssey—no longer scratched the itch.

The Times They Are Unchanging

Fast forward a couple thou'. Tell us, Beyonce Knowles, star singer of Destiny's Child—what is the secret of your success? "I've learned so much from watching

Janet Jackson over my career. She starts the trends and she taught me you have to reinvent yourself with every new album. She's still herself, but she always has a new thing, a new hair color, a new look, a new type of album." Did you hear that echo from Athens? Maybe we haven't come such a long way. So why have people always craved newness? *Still* searching. Why the relentless emptiness? *Still* bored.

An Old Reality

Our Creator designed within each of us a restless thirst requiring continual quenching. Some have said there's a God-shaped vacuum within each of us which only He can fill. So we are destined for daily searching. Whether we drink up a pop ballad or one of King David's Psalms—we are going to be drained out tomorrow. This is precisely why we should actively fill up with the Lord everyday.

Some days I resist the need to fill up with God. I want to pull up to the world's pumping station and see how long I can run on a tank of their latest. God said in Jeremiah, "*They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.*" Novelties leak. I'm reminded that the peace He gives is not like the world's. It never gets old. Bottoms up for a brand new blessing!



-Joe Fornear