

“Making Sense of Life (2): Truth and Tolerance”

“What is Truth?”

“Why is there Something Instead of Nothing?” We *ARE* Here, But Why?

First Message: “Fitting the Jigsaw Puzzle Pieces of Life Together”. Major Puzzle Pieces:

- Origin of the Universe: 2 Worldviews – Atheistic vs. Christian
- General Revelation and Special Revelation...

Cultural Shift from Modern Mindset to Post-Modern Mindset Today: “Truth and Tolerance”

I. What is Tolerance: Is Tolerance Wrong?

- A. No: When it is applied to Respecting the Dignity of People
- B. Yes: If one Must Treat All Viewpoints as Equally Valid when Facts Contradict
Does Feeling-based Worldview fit into the Puzzle Pieces of the Reality of Life?

II. Is there Truth? Absolute Truth?

Post-Modern Tolerance Worldview Rejects the Idea of Absolute Truth...

- A. “There’s No Absolute Truth” is Self-Contradicting
- B. If Absolute Truth does *Exist*...
Willing to be *Open-minded – Tolerant*, to Change one’s View,
and Embrace Truth *If/When* one Encounters it
- C. Truth is Exclusive
- D. Submit to “Truth”, and be *Tolerant* by *Respecting the Dignity* of others who hold different Views

III. Controversial Issues: Imposition of Judeo-Christian Values and Claims upon Others?

- A. Recognizing the Dignity of God’s Image in Men to Exercise *Free Will*: Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

God lets men *Choose* his own way, but Ready to Receive
Returning Prodigals on the Basis of *Grace*

- B. Be Bold to Express what we Believe to be the Truth

Exclusive Claim of Christianity: “Jesus – the Only Way to God” – True or Not True?

1. Jesus: Central Figure of Christianity: Liar, Lunatic, or the Son of God?
2. Jesus’ Resurrection: Attested Account

Genuine Believers can have a Personal Relationship with the *Living* Jesus
The Promise of Freedom and Personal Experience Make Sense of Life

Questions Most People Ask

- I. *Is There a God? Bible and Science are Contradictory!***
- II. *Is Religion a Psychological Crutch for Weak People?***
- III. **Is the Bible Reliable? Isn't the Bible Full of Errors and Contradictions?****
- IV. **Why is there Evil and Suffering in the World?****
- V. *The Bible is Full of Miracles! Are Miracles Possible?***
- VI. **Is Christ the ONLY Way to God? What about those who have never heard of Jesus? Why is Christianity so Intolerant? It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere!****
- VII. **How can a Loving God send people to Hell?****
- VIII. **Why are there so many Hypocrites among Christians in the Church?****
- IX. **The Bible says, "Not by Good Works, only trust in Jesus Christ", how can have that kind of Assurance? I could never take that blind leap of faith!****

普遍的疑問、問題

- I. 有神嗎？聖經豈不是和科學互相衝突嗎？
- II. 宗教是不是「弱者的心理支柱」？
- III. 聖經豈不是充滿矛盾和錯誤嗎？「聖經可靠嗎」？
- IV. 為什麼世界上有這麼多的苦難和罪惡？
- V. 聖經滿是神蹟！神蹟可能嗎？
- VI. 基督真是唯一到神那裡去的道路嗎？那些從未聽到過耶穌的人怎辦？為什麼基督教這麼不容忍別人？相信什麼並不重要，只要心誠就夠了！
- VII. 一個慈愛的神怎麼會把人送進地獄？
- VIII. 如果聖經所說的是真實的話，為什麼教會裏有這麼多假冒偽善的基督徒？
- IX. 聖經說：“不靠善行、只要相信耶穌基督”；我怎麼可以肯定有救恩的確據？我可不能盲從！

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- ※ ‘How do U Scientifically prove the Existence of God 如何可以以科學來證明神的存在’
 - Legal Proof & Scientific Proof are Diff? What kind of Proof would Satisfy you 法律的證明和科學的證明是不一樣的; 要怎樣的證明才能滿足你?
- ※ ‘The Bible is Full of Errors 聖經裡充滿錯誤; I don’t Believe the Bible 我不相信聖經’
 - Really? Can U tell me some of the Ex’s of Errors 你好不好舉些例子讓我們來看看?
 - I can’t Force U to Believe, but would U like to at least listen to what the Bible says about how a person can Know God 我不希望和你爭論、也不勉強你相信. 但我盼望你可以聽聽聖經上對一個人怎樣可以認識神的說法. 好嗎?
- ※ Why don’t All the Religions in the world merge as one 為什麼世界上的宗教不合為一家
 - How do U reconcile the Paradoxes in the various religions 這些宗教信仰上的矛盾怎樣調解、和諧呢?
- ※ ‘Church is full of Hypocrites 教會裡都是假冒偽善的人’...
 - Do U know Jesus was most Opposed to Hypocrites too 你知不知道耶穌也責備假冒偽善的人? Are All Christians like that 基督徒都是這樣嗎?
- ※ ‘I have my own Religion 我有自己的信仰’
 - What do U believe? How does Ur religion teach U about making Peace w/God? Do U meet its Standards 你信什麼? 你的宗教如何叫人與神和好? 你達到這個標準嗎?
 - I agree w/Ur point on this, but not quite so on the other point; may I share w/U my view on that 我在這個論點上同意你的說法. 但在另一點上看法持異議. 能不能讓我分享我的觀點?
 - Some are Argumentative, try this: If I Answer Ur Q on this point, would U then be willing to Trust Christ? What is the Key issue of Ur Objection 對有意刁難的: 我如果回答了你這個問題, 你是否就願意相信呢? 你真正的問題徵結關鍵是什麼?

The Bible is full of stories, tell them! Parables of the Rich Fool, the Prodigal Son, Stories of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, etc.

沒有人不喜歡聽故事的: 漁夫 (路加 5 - 彼得); 憂慮, 忙/賺錢 (路加 12:16-31); 生命 (馬太 16:24-27); 點心 - 嚐過主恩的滋味 (詩 34:8; 彼得前書 2:1-3); 兒女 - 神給我們的產業 (詩 127:3-5; 128 篇), 作神的兒女、更是有福 (約翰 1:12); 懷孕 - 重生 (約翰 3:1-8); 道德不夠、不行 → 尼哥底母; 房子 - 教堂 (不是教會; 教會是“人” - 家): 成為家中一份子? 未來前途 - 聖經預言 → 主耶穌