



LIFE!

Finding answers

Read - Watch - Discuss

Clophill
GoodNewsLetter
Spring 2024

Why this? Why now?

Do you feel it? The world seems upside down. Uncertain, insecure, a sense of unease? On the outside we get on with life, but inside we feel disturbed.

Political unrest, and rising sectarian hatred, the threat to democracy here in the UK. Wars and rumours of wars, earthquakes, tsunamis, famine, climate change and more. ***Why is all this happening? What is the answer to it all? Is there one?***



We are confident of a resounding yes!

Will you join us to discover for yourself? Read our newsletters. Watch the internet links we promote. Read the amazing books we talk about. Meet with us on Zoom to hear a topic and discuss, with time for Q & A.



Here at Ministries of Life we are asking questions and exploring answers. We offer an invitation for you to explore with us. How will you and I cope with the big changes and challenging issues of life ahead of us?

Explore with us ***every first Monday of the month*** from 7:15pm to 8:15pm on Zoom.

Confirm your place at our website
www.ministriesoflife.co.uk

You are invited as a guest, always without cost or any obligation.

The power to change everything

How has it come to this? We even fear for our children's futures. How will their lives be when they get to our age? In the years 2030 and 2040 how will our lives be?

Wonderful acts of goodness and kindness break through, which warm our hearts and give hope.

We need more than the best we can do. From the beginning of time, doing our best, or some, their worst, brought us here.

The power to change ourselves and the future, we believe, are in the hands of **The Man Who Came Back**. Our goodnewsletters explore the way of certain hope for all our futures.

Our website at www.ministriesoflife.co.uk invites you to meet us providing videos with titles of 'The Greatest Love Story'. The Fear of Death and Relationship Not Religion.

Do you feel the world is broken? We do! Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do! But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from breaking through? We do! (Lyrics by Andrew Peterson)

The Man Who Came Back

Unbelievable! Suppose a whole crowd of people saw a man die. Then, a few days later saw him alive, talked and walked with him? Some say they even had a meal with him. Suppose they told you they saw it all – experienced it all. Would you believe them?



Dr. Gary Habermas Ph.D. spent much of his life looking into such a story. In his teen years he doubted Christianity. He wanted the truth. Gary's life has been driven by researching the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Man who came back. Gary has found the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ

What does he mean, evidence? www.garyhabermas.com

Join us on the first Monday of every month
7.15pm to 8.15pm. Talks and discussion. Q & A



Can It Be True?

You say no? It all happened years ago. Stories and myths. Science has proved its' not true.

So here is my problem with those sentiments. Many people far brainier than I, do believe it. They even base their lives on it, for this life and what they say is the after life too!



Dr. John Lennox (*Ph.D University of Cambridge*), a believing Christian, a scientist and professor of mathematics at Oxford University. Can you be a believer in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and a highly regarded scientist? Johnlennox.org



Dr Hugh Ross (*Ph.D University of Toronto*) An astrophysicist and scientist. A Christian believer Dr. Hugh says he cannot escape the stunning consistency of what the Bible says with scientists emerging discoveries about the universe. Reasons.org



Professor J Warner Wallace, Once an atheist, Jim was a renowned homicide detective working on 'cold case' detection. Jim used the same method of successfully tracing the truth as a detective, on the resurrection of Jesus. Now Jim declares "I am a Christian because Christianity is true." Coldcasechristianity.com



Lee Strobel, winner of prestigious award for investigative journalism. His books have sold fourteen million copies. *Is God Real* is his latest book. An aggressive atheist turned Christian, Lee explores how science, history and philosophy led him to change his mind about the ultimate question of life. Leestrobel.com



Dr Titus Kennedy (*Ph.D Trinity South West University*) Dr. Kennedy is a professional field archaeologist exploring first hand discoveries through excavation and the examination of artefacts. His discoveries support the evidence for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The man who didn't believe

One of the many reasons why I am sure the resurrection of the Man we call Jesus actually happened! Imagine growing up in a family where your elder brother spoke with special wisdom and performed what you could only see as miracles? Just so different!



One of the brothers, growing up with Jesus was a man called James. James and the brothers of Jesus tried to persuade Jesus to go to Jerusalem to show the miracles He could perform. Jesus declined saying "my time has not yet come" and then "the world hates me because I testify of it that it's work is evil". Looking at the world today might you agree with the words of Jesus?

Later, the brothers and family of Jesus went out to take custody of Jesus saying "he is out of his mind". We see that James with the brothers and the family did not believe, did not understand who Jesus is, or who He claimed to be.

You can find records of these events in your Bible. Gospel of Mark chapter 3 and verses 20-21 and Gospel of John chapter 7 and verses 1-9

The man who changed his mind

James grew up with Jesus, for close to thirty years. James knew the details of the crucifixion, and likely was present with his mother Mary. Surely, he still did not believe in Jesus to be the Son of God or divine in any way?

The greatest shame, in those days, was to be crucified. The people and soldiers mocking the beaten naked body of Jesus on the cross, crucified with thieves and robbers at each side.

James changed his mind about his brother Jesus! James led the Church in Jerusalem and three early historians confirm James was martyred for his faith in Jesus. The three non-Christian believing historians were Josephus, Origen and Eusebius reporting in their writings.

So what happened James? From non-belief to total belief? Belief so certain, so definite, that you died for it?

What happened? The resurrection! James knew Jesus very well, his appearance, his mannerisms and his voice. There is confirmation that Jesus appeared to His brother James, all the apostles and then to 500 people at one time. These statements are falsifiable, meaning they could have been denied and discredited by those around at the time, but not so.

Am I good enough?

In the darkness of night, using my mobile phone torch I could see where to put my feet. Reaching the road, the brightness of the street lamp shone down. Now my phone light was outshone, it achieved nothing!

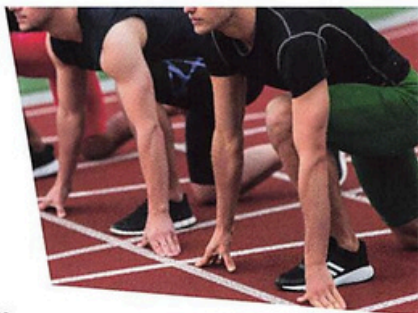
The street lamp was still on when the sun came up, the light from my phone was pointless.

If I had any goodness to compare with anyone else, my goodness could fade into insignificance against their brightness of light in this world.

So, am I good enough?

Good enough?

They were lined up on the track. They had practiced and become good at competing in the classic 100 metres sprint. Proud of their success to date, they waited for the sound of the starting pistol. At that moment an unknown impressive athlete lined up with them.



The starting pistol! They're off! In a flash, the unknown athlete raced ahead breaking the finishing tape. Flailing behind, and despite their best efforts, the others looked at themselves in dismay. They had not come up to the mark. Not good enough it seems.

Who was the unknown athlete? He said his name was Bolt. Usain Bolt, winner of multiple Olympic and World Championship gold medals.

Is anyone good enough?

In times past there were teachers and rabbis in the hills and towns around Jerusalem. A young good religious and wealthy man approached the one known to be an outstanding Teacher.

The young man asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The teacher stopped him right there, saying "Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is God."

Who is this Teacher? Jesus from Nazareth, the place from where it was said that no good could come.

All the young man's goodness was not enough then. He was looking up into the face of the only One good enough to be able to offer him the gift of eternal life. Invited to follow the teacher, give his wealth to the poor and learn about this, the young man turned sadly away clinging to his earthly wealth.

More than the Golden Rule

The Golden Rule of 'loving your neighbour as yourself' is magnified in true Christianity. "Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends" A Man of His word, Jesus, proclaiming Himself to be the Son of God, did this. He suffered the Cross.

The book of Genesis tells us that we are made in the image of God. How we treat each other must reflect this knowledge.

Followers of Jesus seek to treat every individual with equality and respect, seeking to extend the love of God to each and everyone. No matter what faith or none, what world view or ethnic background, rich or poor, each one is valued in the image of God.

Consideration

Religion with rules and limitations can cause division. If true faith and Christianity is found in relationship with the Person of Jesus, then His example excludes no one. All can receive the love of God and find acceptance.

Is this the difference?

Resurrection is not natural, it is supernatural. The Christian promise is of the God-given power to live with love, joy, peace, goodness, gentleness and kindness towards ourselves and others.

Will you join us to discover for yourself? Read our newsletters. Watch the internet links we promote. Read the amazing books we talk about. Meet with us on Zoom to hear a topic and discuss, with time for Q & A.

Explore with us every first Monday of the month from 7:15pm to 8:15pm on Zoom. Confirm your place at our website www.ministriesoflife.co.uk
You are invited as a guest, always without cost or any obligation.

Since the resurrection is real then God is real. Let's explore, learn more, consider, Q & A. If this is true then it is life changing for all of us.

Rob Harris, *Founder Ministries of Life*



Amazing Books

Recommended to give you the knowledge to make up your mind about the most important issue of life: **Did the Resurrection Happen?** Gary Habermas. **Can Science Explain Everything?** John Lennox.

More Than a Theory Dr Hugh Ross. **Is God Real?** Lee Strobel.

Excavating the Evidence for Jesus. Dr. Titus Kennedy.

I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist/Geisler/Turek/

The Passionate Translation Bible (New Testament, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon) Brian Simmons