

LIFE!

Finding answers

Read - Watch - Discuss

Village
GoodNewsLetter
Summer 2024

Twelve years in Bedford Gaol!

Walking the streets of Bedford you would have heard the man swearing and cursing. A man of very bad reputation. Yet he found the power to change! In prison, John Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrims Progress*! A book that has changed, for good, the lives of thousands of people across the globe! What happened?

John's marriage to Elizabeth, a devout Christian woman, was a pivotal first step. John became aware of his sinful lifestyle. His life changed while playing the game 'tip cat' on Elstow Green. On hearing a voice within, distinct and clear "wilt thou leave thy sins, and go to heaven? Or have thy sins and go to hell?" Now deeply searching and reading the Bible, he found the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God and the certainty of Heaven.

John Bunyan was jailed for twelve years. Not for his once bad behaviour but for preaching, the simple truth from the Bible. An act of Parliament in 1660 required preachers to conform to the practices of the Church of England which many preachers, including John, found to be opposed to the truth of the Bible.

Twelve years suffering in Bedford Gaol! Was it worth it, just for believing the Bible is true? Does it really matter? If the Bible is true and there is heaven or hell after death, what you believe does matter?

The stump of the market cross and the Moot Hall, Elstow, where John Bunyan heard the voice within.



Dr. Gary Habermas Ph.D spent much of his life studying whether the resurrection of Jesus Christ was true. In his teen years Gary doubted Christianity. Gary's life has been driven by researching the resurrection of Jesus. You can hear him on YouTube and read his many books finding the evidence for the resurrection.

www.garyhabermas.com



**Join us on the first Monday of every month
7:15pm to 8:15pm. Talks and discussion. Q & A**

What does the future hold?

Many are asking just this. We live in a more uncertain world than most of us have ever experienced. Wars and rumours of a World War ahead. On the outside we get on with life, but inside we feel disturbed. Political unrest, earthquakes, tsunamis, famine. Climate change, perhaps the greatest threat to our children's future?

Understanding why this is all happening and understanding what the future holds, we believe, is revealed in the Bible. If only we would read it!



The Bible confirmed by fulfilled prophecies.

Dr. Hugh Ross says "Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately describes the human condition and offers a response to it—in the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible also consistently predicted future scientific discoveries and future specific events, places, and even names in human history—in detail—many decades, centuries, or millennia in advance.

Dr. Ross found not just hundreds but a couple of thousand **prophecies in the pages of the Bible, the majority of which had been clearly fulfilled already.** The remaining few hundred reached into the future but based on the astounding accuracy of all those I checked, it seemed reasonable to anticipate their likely fulfilment, in due time".

Google: Hugh Ross prophecies fulfilled. Find many examples to prove the reliability of the Bible.



Dr. Hugh Ross (Ph.D University of Toronto) Astrophysicist, Scientist and Christian believer says "I cannot escape the stunning consistency of what the Bible says with scientists emerging discoveries about the universe. Reasons.org

Psalm 22 A Prophetic Portrait Of The Cross

they pierced My hands and My feet;
I can count all my bones,
They look and stare at me.
They divide my garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.

from the Psalm verses 16,17,18



That you might know the exact truth...

So you're in Court! Jury duty. The defence calls a witness. Then he calls another witness, and another. Twelve witnesses in all. All the witnesses in agreement. In the jury room all agree in quick time. You tell the judge "innocent!"

Good Friday Jesus was dead, Easter Sunday alive! Resurrected!

There were 24 witnesses reporting they had met, talked with, heard and touched Jesus. Later 500 people saw Jesus together at one time and place. So what's your verdict?

Scholars and historians today regard a man called Luke, the author of the Bible's, Gospel of Luke, as a skilled researcher and historian.

Luke's evidence comes from eyewitnesses stating they 'saw Jesus alive with their very own eyes'. Luke's writings are supported by historical events and accurate confirmation of places surrounding the life of Jesus.

'Writing so that we might know the exact truth' Luke records the Roman Census of Quirinius when Jesus parents, Joseph and Mary, went to be registered at the time of the birth of Jesus. The census is recorded in the ancient inscription pictured here.

There are pages and pages of evidence for the life of Jesus and proof of Bible truth in a book, 'Excavating the Evidence for Jesus' by Dr. Titus Kennedy.

The archaeology and history of Christ and the gospels are confirmed through the excavations carried out by Dr. Titus Kennedy Ph.D in his book 'Excavating the Evidence for Jesus'

Image sourced from Simple Wikipedia



Dr. Titus Kennedy (Ph.D Trinity South West University) professional archaeologist discovering through excavation and examination of artefacts supporting evidence for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents

Luke the historian writes 'having investigated everything carefully from the beginning in consecutive order that you might know the exact truth'

Written down by eye witnesses

Listen to the man who laid his head on the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper. The Apostle John wrote 'what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and touched with our hands. This is what we proclaim to you.....'

During the lifetime of other eye witnesses

How many eye witnesses were there? As many as twelve separate appearances of Jesus resurrected, alive, there were at least 24 people present. Finally the Apostle Paul and over 500 people all at one time and one place.

They report to us supernatural events

Not superhuman but supernatural events. A woman touched Jesus garment, healed instantly. A man with leprosy healed. Men who were blind, deaf and mute, spoke, heard and saw again. Many of the same witnesses who saw Jesus dead on Good Friday and alive on Easter Sunday saw these things also.

That took place in fulfilment of specific prophecies

The most important Biblical prophecy is recorded one thousand years before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Psalm 22 in the Bible describes the crucifixion of Jesus in specific detail. Crucifixion first arose in Roman times, hundreds of years before, and not known of, when the Psalm was written.

They claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin

The authors of the New Testament Bible state clearly that what they speak is not taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Holy Spirit.

Hear compelling detail of this with Dr. Voddie Baucham on You Tube. Why you can believe the Bible – Voddie Baucham.



The Resurrection happened!

The Bible is True! Does it Matter?

Does it matter? The words of Jesus Christ in the Bible talk of an abundant life now and eternal life in hell or heaven and nothing in between. Given that is true, it matters!

Why did John Bunyan suffer 12 years in Bedford Gaol to defend the truth of the Bible's message? He could of walked free any time!

Why did many of the early Christian believers die for their faith in Jesus?
They could have denied Him and saved their lives?

They knew!

No one dies the most painful death possible to defend what they know to be a lie, do they?

Impression of John Bunyan in prison. Sign to say you wont preach the Gospel and go free!



What must we do then?

What must we do? This was the very question people asked when the early Church was born.

They heard that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus was the only way back to God from sin, through forgiveness of all they have done wrong.

Three thousand people believed, trusted, and there and then, found that God loved them, forgave and accepted them, Will you join them?

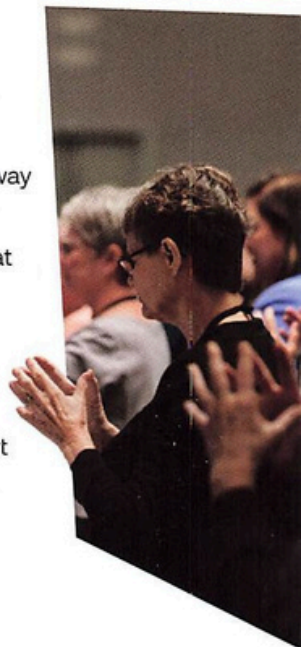
Changing your mind is what the Bible calls repentance. When you change your mind your life changes too. You receive the God-given power to leave the past and follow God's plan for your life. Will you?

So many began their new life in God with a simple prayer from the heart telling God they need to be forgiven, that they trust the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for God's forgiveness. Will you pray like this now?

The promise of God

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes and trusts in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Pray from the heart and the Bible says, this promise is yours right now. The evidence this promise is yours is that your life and desires will change as you learn more about Jesus following Him as He pours the Holy Spirit of love, joy and peace, patience, goodness an much more into your life.



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



Join Us Join us at www.ministriesoflife.co.uk every first Monday of the month 7:15pm to 8:15pm. Relaxed conversation. A topic. Discussion. Q&A. You are invited as a guest always without cost or obligation.

See our recommended amazing books: **Did the Resurrection Happen?**
Can Science Explain Everything? Creation - More than a Theory! Is God Real?
Excavating the Evidence for Jesus. I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist.
The Passionate Translation Bible

Where to buy and more: www.ministries of life.co.uk

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