

The Unshakeable Truth - Introduction

- I. Embracing a Biblical Worldview Hosea 6:6
 - a. Definition: *A way of knowing and being and living in right relationship to God, ourselves, others, and the world around us.* – Josh McDowell
 - b. We begin to understand ourselves – our purpose
 - c. We begin to understand how to relate to others
 - d. We begin to understand how to relate to the world we live in
 - e. We begin to understand our Relationship with God!
- II. Recapture the ‘Living Story’ – the Word of God!
- III. God’s Truth Declarations
 - a. Creation: I Am God!
 - i. The truth that God exists
 - ii. The truth about God’s Word
 - iii. The truth about original sin
 - b. Incarnation: God has provided a solution to our sin problem
 - i. The truth about God taking on human form
 - ii. The truth about Christ’s atonement for sin
 - iii. The truth about justification through faith in Christ
 - iv. The truth about living a transformed life
 - c. Re-creation: We are a new creature that will live forever with God
 - i. The truth about Jesus bodily resurrection
 - ii. The truth about the Trinity
 - iii. The truth about God’s kingdom
 - iv. The truth about the Church
 - v. The truth about the return of Christ

* Taken from the book: **The Unshakeable Truth** by Josh & Sean McDowell

1 The Truth That God Exists

- I. What we believe about God
 - a. Eternal Isaiah 40:28
 - b. Omnipotent Job 42:2
 - c. Omnipresent Jeremiah 23:23-24
 - d. Immutable Psalm 102:26-27
 - e. Omniscient Psalm 139:1
 - f. Personal Exodus 34:14

- II. Evidence for God's Existence
 - a. The cosmological argument – a cause and a beginning
 - b. The teleological argument – design
 - c. The moral law argument – justice, courage, fairness
 - d. A personal experience with God argument

Truth #2 - God's Word

The Protection and Provision of God's Word

- I. Two models for viewing truth:
 - a. Truth is defined by God
 - b. Truth is defined by the individual

- II. God's Word is our Standard

- III. Living under the Protection & Provision of God's Word
 - a. I John 5:3, Jeremiah 29:11
 - b. Words of Warning
 - c. Seeing God's Protection
 - d. Seeing God's Provision – John 8:32

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Truth #3 Original Sin

- I. A Broken Relationship - Genesis 2:15 – 3:11
 - a. A choice was made by mankind
 - i. There was freedom to trust
 - ii. Separation from God (Gen. 3:23-24)
 - 1. Romans 8:20-22
 - 2. Romans 5:12
 - 3. Romans 6:23
 - iii. Goodness is not ‘Good Enough’
- II. Biblical Evidences of Sins Consequences
 - a. Murder – Genesis 4
 - b. Lust, Rape, Mass Killing – Genesis 34
 - c. Slavery – Exodus 1
 - d. God’s Requirement: Deuteronomy 10:12,13
- III. Choosing Right from Wrong
 - a. Consider the Choice
 - b. Compare the Choice to God
 - c. Commit To God’s Ways
 - d. Count on God’s Protection and Provision

1. God Exists
2. God's Word
3. Original Sin
4. God Became Human

Truth Four: God Became Human

- I. In spite of man's rejection of God – God reached out to man.
John 1:14
- II. Evidence that God became human
 - a. He is either Lord, a liar, or a lunatic
 - i. Was Jesus a liar? (intentionally misleading)
 1. went against His own teachings
 2. He asked people to believe in Him for their eternal destiny
 3. He died for what He believed
 - ii. Was Jesus a lunatic? (unintentionally misleading)
 1. His Humility
 2. His Love for others
 3. His Words of Wisdom (confounded teachers)
 4. His Compassion
 5. His Devotion
 - iii. Was Jesus Lord?
 1. He claimed to be God John 5:18, John 8:56-59, Mark 2:5-7
 2. He fulfilled prophecy in great detail
 3. He died for His Deity claim Mark 14:61-64
 - b. The virgin birth
 - i. Genesis 3:15 – from a woman – no mention of a man
 - ii. Isaiah 7:14
 - iii. Compelling evidence of His deity
 - iv. Matthew 1:18, 22-23 and Luke 1:34-35
 - v. Reaction of His contemporaries

1. Mark 6:3 – “son of Mary” (not father’s name)
 2. Wedlock – John 8:41
- vi. Why did Mary stick with the “virgin” story and not invent something else?
 - vii. Joseph’s reaction – Matthew 1:18-20, 24

12 Unshakeable Truths

1. God Exists
2. God gave us His Word
3. Original Sin
4. God became Human

Truth 5: Christ's Atonement for Sin

- I. A Sacrifice is Needed for Sin
 - a. Habakkuk 1:13, Ephesians 2:1-4
 - b. Example: Abraham – Genesis 22:1-13
 - c. God's command to Israel: Lev. 1:1-4
 - d. Christ is the Perfect Sacrifice: Romans 7:14-25
 - e. Romans 6:23, I Peter 1:18-19
- II. Evidences that Jesus was the Messiah – the Perfect Sacrifice
 - a. Prophecy – 60 major prophecies
 - b. Chances that just 8 of these could be fulfilled in 1 person: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.
- III. God's True Love
 - a. Showed to the Thief on the cross – Luke 23:39-43
 - b. I John 4:9-10
- IV. Showing the Love of God to Others
 - a. Real Love Sacrifices
 - i. Comfort
 - ii. Possessions
 - iii. Time
 - b. Real Love Affirms

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5. Christ's Atonement for Sin

Truth 6 – Justification through Faith

I. Absolute necessity: Romans 3:20-28

II. Evidence that Christ as the Power to Save us!

A. The Miracles of Christ – a witness to mankind of His power

1. John 5:36
2. John 10:25
3. John 10:38

B. Power over

1. Death – Lazarus
2. Nature – Matthew 8
3. Human body – illness and handicaps
4. Physics – feeding 5000, water to wine
5. Gravity – walking on water

C. Our joy is made complete – Ephesians 1:4-5

III. How to have a personal relationship with a Holy God

A. Can you know God personally?

1. God does love you – I John 4:10
2. God has a plan for you – John 17:3
3. God has a future for you – Jeremiah 29:11

B. What prevents us from knowing God personally?

1. Sin – Romans 3:23
2. Humans are separated – Romans 6:23

C. God provided a way to bridge this separation

1. Christ died in our place – Romans 3:25
2. Christ rose from the dead – I Cor. 15:3-6
3. Christ is the only way – John 14:6

D. It is not enough to just KNOW these truths

1. We must receive Christ as our Saviour – John 1:12
2. We receive Him through Faith – Ephesians 2:8-9
3. We receive Him by accepting His invitation – Rev. 3:20

E. When we receive Christ, we are changed

1. New life in Christ – II Cor. 5:15

2. Eternal Life with Christ – I John 5:11-13

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6. Justification through Faith

Truth 7: Living the Transformed Life

I. Understanding our Purpose II Corinthians 5:17-18

A. Our Metamorphosis to be Like Christ

1. Change from self-seeking to God thinking
2. A New nature – Ephesians 4:23

B. Understanding Why we are Here – To bring Glory to God!

II. Evidences of a Changed Life

III. Seeing yourself as God sees you – Ephesians 1 & 2

A. Blessed with spiritual blessing – 1:3

B. Chosen – 1:4

C. Adopted – 1:5

D. Redeemed – 1:7

E. Forgiven – 1:7

F. Eternal inheritance – 1:11

G. Received the Holy Spirit – 1:13

H. Alive – 2:5

I. Seated with Christ – 2:6

J. Example of God's Grace – 2:7

K. Saved – 2:8

L. God's masterpiece – 2:10

M. Direct access to God – 2:18

Truth Eight: Jesus' Bodily Resurrection

I. Necessity

Hebrews 2:14-17, I Corinthians 15:14-20

II. Evidence that Jesus literally rose from the dead

A. The Empty Tomb – Luke 24:5-11

1. Acknowledged by historian Josephus
2. Acknowledged by 'Toledoth Jeshu' – satire of Jesus' life
3. Women were first to find the empty tomb

B. Alternative theories on the Empty Tomb

1. The Stolen Body Theory – Matthew 28:11-15
 - a. Tomb was guarded by Roman Soldiers
 - b. Grave clothes and lines were left (and folded)
 - c. Disciples were skeptical according to all accounts
 - d. Disciples had shown fear throughout the trial
2. The Swoon Theory – not really dead
 - a. Scourging often killed a man by itself
 - b. Nailed to the cross – order to break Jesus' legs
 - c. Jesus had already died – so spear thrust into side (John 19:34)
 - d. Pilate was surprised Jesus had died and asked for confirmation before releasing His body.
 - e. Must have unwound Himself from grave cloths
 - f. Must have moved the stone from the inside and got past soldiers
 - g. Was not immediately recognized by those He met

3. Relocated Body Theory

- a. Jewish custom to sometimes relocate the body – after 1 year!
- b. The empty tomb did not convince the Disciples either

4. Hallucination Theory

- * Jesus appeared Ten Times to various people

5. A Spiritual Resurrection Theory (Jehovah's Witness Theory)

III. A Risen Savior – Overcoming the Fear of Death

A. We can be free of the Fear of death because Death has been conquered

B. We will be resurrected with Christ – John 14:2-3

C. Because He lives:

1. The mystery of Death is revealed
2. We don't have to face Death alone
3. We are not permanently separated from loved ones
4. We have a future
5. Death may be unavoidable – but it is a transition to eternal life!

Truth Nine: The Trinity

- I. The Trinity visible: Matthew 3:14-17, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 1:1,2 and John 1:1-3

II. The Trinity Understood

- A. The Oneness of God – Deut. 6:4
- B. Example of H₂O – Ice, Liquid, Gas
- C. Jesus is Deity – Romans 9:5, Hebrews 1:3
- D. Holy Spirit is Deity – Acts 5:3-4, John 14:16,26
- E. Paul's prayer: Eph. 3:14-17

III. Evidence of God at Work through His Holy Spirit – Power at Pentecost

IV. Purpose of the Holy Spirit in our Lives

- A. To make us One with God – John 17:21,23
 - * Luke 10:40-42
 - B. To make us Christ like – Romans 8:9
 - C. To illuminate the Truth of Scripture – I Corinthians 2:11-12
 - D. To empower us for Service – Acts 1:8
 - E. To bring meaning to our Lives – Romans 8:16
- V. How – by giving up! Sacrificing to His leading and power.

Truth #10 – The Kingdom

1. Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:12 * There is something bigger than you and I and the world we see around us.
2. People argue that Religion is bad – causes wars – but religion has brought:
 - a. High value of human life
 - b. Care for the sick in creating hospitals
 - c. Literacy and education worldwide
 - d. Abolition of slavery in western world
 - e. Elevation of women
 - f. High standards of justice
 - g. Charity work & benevolence
 - h. Development of art and music
3. Spiritual worldview (Kingdom view) priorities:
 - a. Begins with relationships
 - b. Adds beliefs
 - c. Leads to values
 - d. Culminates in Actions
4. Self-centered worldview puts these in opposite order
 - a. Look at my actions
 - b. Loosely based on my values
 - c. Beliefs that may change
 - d. People and relationships are last
5. Kingdom worldview asks these questions:
 - a. What is reality? – It is God
 - b. How does the World exist?
 - c. What is a human being?
 - d. Why is it possible to know anything?
 - e. How do I know right from wrong?
 - f. What happens when I die?
 - g. What is the meaning of human history?
 - h. What core commitments are consistent with my worldview?

Twelve Essential Truths

(Taken from the book: The Unshakeable Truth by Josh McDowell)

1. God Exists
2. God's Word
3. Original Sin
4. God became Man
5. Christ's Atonement for Sin
6. Justification through Faith
7. Living the Transformed Life
8. Jesus' Resurrection
9. The Trinity
10. The Kingdom

Truth #11 – The Church

I. The Church Defined

- A. It is the new people of God – Gal. 6:15-16
- B. It is God's Family – Romans 8:14-17
- C. It is the body of Christ – Eph. 2:23
- D. It is the Holy Temple of God – Eph. 2:21-22
- E. It is the Bride of Christ – Eph. 5:25-27
- F. It is Christ's agent to fulfill His mission to redeem the lost
– I Peter 2:9

II. The Active Expression of the Church

- A. The church embodies what a community of redeemed people look like.
- B. The church is a compassionate and healing presence to those in need.
- C. The church is God's agent to spread the Gospel – Ambassadors
- D. The church is to make Disciples
 1. A life of Faith
 2. A life of Worship
 3. A life of Prayer
 4. A life of being conformed into His image
 5. A life that resists the sin nature
 6. A life of making Godly choices
 7. A life of spiritual redemption

III. The church is to show the Love of Christ

- A. Love meets the need for Comfort – II Cor. 1:3-4

- B. Love meets the need for Attention (Care) I Cor. 12:25
- C. Love meets the need for Acceptance Romans 15:7
- D. Love meets the need for Appreciation I Cor. 11:2
- E. Love meets the need for Support Gal. 6:2
- F. Love meets the need for Encouragement I Thess. 5:11
- F. Love meets the need for Affection – Romans 12:10
- F. Love meets the need for Approval – Romans 14:18
- G. Love meets the need for Security – I John 4:18
- H. Love meets the need for Respect – I Peter 2:17

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11. The Church

Truth 12: The Return of Jesus Christ

- Why we believe the Rapture will occur:

1. Follows a literal, chronological order of events – Rev. 4:1
2. The church will be “saved from the wrath to come” – I Thes 1:10, 5:9, Rev. 3:10
* There is no mention of the word ‘church’ after Rev. 4 until 19
3. Anti-christ will come onto scene at the beginning of Tribulation
- Holy Spirit will be greatly removed due to removal of church (II Thes 2:7-8)
- Rapture will undoubtedly be that one global event to unify the world
4. Obvious distinctions between Israel and the Church – seven year Tribulation is God's final dealing with the Nation of Israel – the Church Age is over – Daniel 9:21-25
5. The Rapture is going to be a surprise – ‘twinkling of an eye’
6. This seven year period allows for the Judgment Seat of Christ and Marriage Ceremony
7. There is little to no mention of the Tribulation Period in the Epistles. If we were to go through the Tribulation there would undoubtedly be some information for us.