

"The Truth in Jesus"

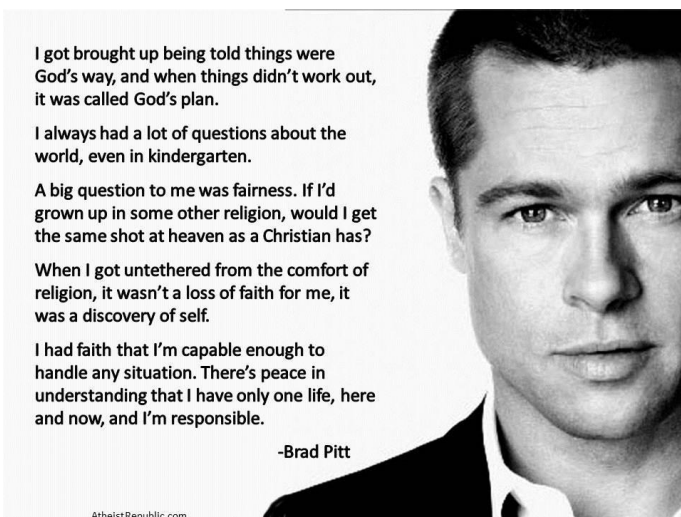
Ephesians 4.20-24

Been BUSY 2 weeks since SEEN Most of You – As Global Citizens WE Wonder when Board Plane, Attend Concert, Have a Coffee, Watch Football Is LIFE INSURANCE Premium PAID? & Our CHIA Plants all WATERED?

HOW can we Live without FEAR in this WORLD?

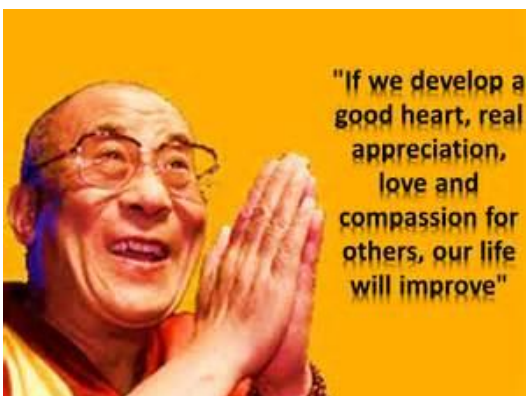
MOST People do NOT THINK Answer will be Found in CHURCH!

... a viable alternative to Christianity must be sought. That alternative is Humanism. ... The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new - the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of Humanism... John Dunphy



As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity ... we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species ... No deity will save us; we must save ourselves "Humanist Manifesto"

One Guy who is WELL KNOWN around Here has a Great AMBITION



Letter of Apostle Paul to Church in Ephesus > Very Different APPROACH
 ULTIMATE Solution to HUMAN Problem – Not Found in HUMANS
 Unflattering Portrait of Earthlings: Dark Minds, Hard Hearts, Perverse Wills

GREEKS VALUED TRUTH & KNOWLEDGE >> WAY OF SALVATION

GREEKS - Knowledge gained through Reason and Intellect

ANCIENT GREEK IDEA OF TRUTH -

Abstract Principle - Philosophical Hypothesis - Mathematical Equation

New Testament: TRUTH IS A PERSON - ONE FULL OF GRACE & TRUTH

RESCUING HERO in this Book > WORD OF GOD MADE FLESH

DIED Death we Deserved – RISEN in Power & Glory – SEATED with Him

Chapters 1 – 3 MAJESTY of Jesus / Chs 4 – 6 MISSION of CHURCH of Jesus

Our Mission 2 Main Tasks > 4.1-16 Unity / 4.17 – 6.24 Purity

Amidst CLAIMS and COUNTER-CLAIMS for TRUTH Paul boldly Declares

"The Truth in Jesus" > 4 Verses VIVID Word Pictures of HIM

The only truly transforming power that has ever come into the world is that of the person and teaching of Jesus Christ, and the only truly lasting changes that ever take place in an individual life take place through believing in and learning from him.

James Boice

1. Know Him

Readers MAY HAVE BEEN PAGAN > STILL LIVE IN PAGAN WORLD

THEY WERE NOW A NEW PEOPLE IN CHRIST

v. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!

STARTLING Phrase – HOW do you LEARN a PERSON?

Phrase NEVER found Elsewhere in Greek BIBLE or GREEK LITERATURE

Something MORE than Knowing HISTORY, DOCTRINE, TEACHING of Jesus

And this is eternal life, that they *know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ*
whom you have sent. John 17.3

A Christian has a **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD** – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Paul writing to **PEOPLE** in **SEARCH** of **RELATIONSHIPS**

v. 19 “given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity”

Like trying to **SLAKE INSATIABLE Thirst** by Drinking **SALT WATER**

Money, Sex, Power, and Worldly Comforts can **NEVER SATISFY**

Mick Jagger “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction” – 50 years Singing! Still **TRUE!**

Jesus invites the **THIRSTY** – Come to **HIM** and **DRINK!**

a. **Facts not Feelings - TRUTH NOT EXPERIENCE THAT IS IN JESUS**

Not Mythical god Living on Mt. Olympus > **HIM WHO IS THE TRUTH**

FAITH BASED ON REAL MAN - GOD IN FLESH - Lived & Died & Rose

We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5.7 - **OR FEELINGS**

"Spiritual interest among young people is amazing. You can have a great conversation about spiritual things - until you mention Jesus. Then people shut down."
Rick Richardson - IVCF in USA

TRUTH GIVEN BY - b. Revelation not Realization

SOME THINK MUST REACH DOWN W/IN SELVES AND FIND GOD

SELF DISCOVERY - Human Potential Movement - SCIENTOLOGY

BLUNT Assessment for BRILLIANT Ephesians...

v. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them

LOOK INTO YOUR OWN SOUL - HEY NOBODY HOME!!

GOD REVEALED MESSAGE TO PAUL - PAUL DID NOT INVENT IT

the mystery made known to me by revelation

Ephesians 3.3

2. Heard Him

v. 21 assuming that you have heard (about) him >> “heard Him”

Ephesians – Miles from Israel – Decades after Jesus Ascended – How Hear Him?

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Galatians 3.1

How did these Galatians – Not far from Ephesians – See the Wretched Cross?

“every honest preacher’s mouth is Christ’s mouth, and his word and forgiveness is Christ’s word and forgiveness... For the office is not the pastor’s but God’s; and the Word which he preaches is likewise not the preacher’s but God’s”

Martin Luther

Paul was an HONEST PREACHER and FAITHFUL APOSTLE

a. His Word > YOU are that Messenger > Portray Crucified Christ on Campus

PAUL WAS GOING TO LEAVE EPHESIAN CHURCH FOR LAST TIME

“Now I commit you to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified” Acts 20.32

SIMILAR CLAIM ABOUT WORD IN LETTER

when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit Ephesians 1.13

THE TRUTH IS ABOUT HIM - HIS NATURE AND HIS DEMANDS

In the beginning was the Word, the Word with God, Word was God...the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us John 1.1,14

LOTS OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT JESUS - most popular on BB court

ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE ABOUT JESUS IS BIBLE – IMPORTANT

v. 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds

b. His Voice v. 21 "you heard him" JESUS actually SPEAKS TO US NOW

He was THINKING of YOU and ME when he Said...

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, *they too will listen to my voice* John 10.16

VOICE OF JESUS RECORDED IN NT - WORDS OF APOSTLES

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God Ephesians 1.1

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord Ephesians 4.17

“The Preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God. Wherefore when this Word of God is now preached in the church by preachers lawfully called, we believe that the very Word of God is proclaimed and received by the faithful.”

The Second Helvetic Confession, chapter 1, 1566

"many times when I speak I feel like a spectator of what the Holy Spirit is doing through me" Billy Graham

Never FORGET Sunday in Hawaii – Scary Moment in Church I PASTORED

Woman STORMED to Front Right after MY SERMON > SHOUTED

“How did YOU Know I got into a Fight with my Husband this Morning!

SMILED and Said to Her “Hey, thanks for Telling Me!”

SHE: “From your Words in that Sermon, sounded like you ALREADY KNEW!”

3. Taught In Him

v. 21 you...were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus

JESUS is the ENVIRONMENT OF TEACHING – Picture a SCHOOL HOUSE

IN EVERY WAY CHRIST IS TO BE CENTRAL

NOT just Taught BY Jesus or ABOUT Jesus > Taught IN Jesus!

Jesus is BOTH the MEDIUM and the MESSAGE!

When Jesus Christ is at once the subject, the object and the environment of the moral instruction being given, we may have confidence that it is truly Christian. For the truth is in Jesus. John Stott

PHRASE Often REPEATED IN THIS LETTER - "in Christ"

"in Him" "in the Beloved" - Paul uses phrase in 13 letters almost 300 X's

If we're going to be in Him - then we must "PUT HIM ON"

a. Change LIKE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES - PUT OFF / PUT ON

vs. 22-24 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

DECISIVE ACTION - "TAKE IT OFF" - Set Them Aside,

Have Nothing More to do With Them / Turn your Back, and Walk Away

WHAT WE "put off" - OLD NATURE - Sins Forgiven by God's Grace

Powerful Message Last Sunday – Preacher pointed to SIN of PORNOGRAPHY
 Heard Some argue NOT a SIN > Stress Relief, Safer than HIV > So is JOGGING

If you can't INVITE JESUS to Sit and Watch what you ARE WATCHING,
 You are WATCHING the WRONG STUFF....be Sure that HE IS WATCHING!

"Former way of Life / CORRUPT" - Perishing, Rotten, Polluted, Lustful

What WE COULD NEVER DO in Ourselves- GOD DID FOR US IN X

"Put on the New Self" // NEW CREATION - CONTINUOUS RENEWAL
 IMAGE OF GOD - NOT THAT WE LOOK LIKE HIM - NO BODY

v. 24 "true righteousness and holiness"

WAY ADAM WAS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - Righteous and Holy

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE - IMAGE DISTORTED & TWISTED BY SIN

“put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”
Colossians 3.10

OLD MAN	NEW MAN
"corrupted"	"created to be like God"
"desires"	"righteousness and holiness"
"deceitful"	"true"

EVIDENCE of SALVATION - RENEWED IMAGE OF GOD IN US IN X

JOHN NEWTON > Slave Trader CHANGED by AMAZING GRACE

“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world, but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am”
John Newton

b. Commitment v. 20 that is not the way you learned Christ

WE ARE TO LIVE OUT WHAT WE ARE IN CHRIST

GOD DOES THE SAVING WORK - WE HAVE A PART TO PLAY

HIS IS "re-creation" OUR IS THE "repentance"

Greek “putting off” & “putting on” Definite Acts / “being renewed” is Process

"Before Christ revealed Himself to you, the old man reigned in you, therefore, if you desire to cast Him away, you must renounce your former way of life"
John Calvin

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
Colossians 3.7-9

v. 25 put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor

v. 28 no longer steal, but rather let him labor

v. 29 no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up

John 11 - Death of Jesus' friend Lazarus

JESUS - "The Resurrection and the Life" >> PROVES HIS POWER

VOICE OF SON OF GOD - "Lazarus" - Risen to New Life

"The dead man came out , his hands and feet wrapped in strips of linen, and a cloth around his face" Jesus said, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

John 11.44

IF RISEN TO NEWNESS OF LIFE IN X - then, Take Off the Grave Clothes!!

TAKE OFF THE OLD, PUT ON THE NEW

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13.14

THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS – We MUST Know Him - Hear Him - Taught in Him

2015 is QUICKLY Ending > 2016 on HORIZON

Many NATIONS in this ROOM > All follow this CHRISTIAN Calendar

Even places w/ Different Calendars – Muslims, Jews, here in China still 2015

Jesus Christ is DIVIDING Line of History all Around the WORLD

Is HE the Dividing LINE of your LIFE HISTORY?

Have you TAKEN Off Works of Flesh that were BEFORE CHRIST?

Have you PUT ON His Yoke, His Word, Truth in Jesus > Live in Year of Lord?

What does it mean to PUT ON THIS JESUS? Live in HIS TRUTH?

1. God or Self?

Follower of Jesus TRUSTS His WORD, SALVATION, PROMISES

MEANING of their Life Found in HIM > Not just Religion, RELATIONSHIP

RELIGION without Jesus > Bible calls VAIN, EMPTY, about Yourself

Non-Christian religions exist because of the God of Christianity. Not knowing the true God has left a vacuum at the center of human personality which people everywhere try to fill with religion. James Boice

EITHER YOUR Truth is Jesus > Or your GOSPEL is I CAN DO IT MYSELF!

2. Plan or Accident?

Many SCHOLARS in this NEIGHBORHOOD > Placed their FAITH in Chance
Explain World by RANDOM CHANCE of ATHEISTIC EVOLUTION

One day there was MEANINGLESS ACCIDENT > thru NO PLAN AT ALL...
Some INORGANIC Compounds (Hydrogen, Water, Ammonia, Carbon Dioxide)

All of which just HAPPENED to be EXISTING Already for NO REASON

United to BIO-ORGANIC Compounds (Amino Acids, Sugars)

Bio-Organics UNITED to Form BIO-POLYMERS – Just by COINCIDENCE

LARGE MOLECULES somehow became PROTEINS

Which Surprisingly became the FIRST LIVING CELLS > like ALGAE

Before Know it – Randomly! – Great, Great, Grandpa emerged from SLIME

RIDICULOUS – Chance is NO SUCH THING! It can FORM NOTHING!

MUST be a PLAN – Must be a PLANNER

No Plan, No Planner, No MEANING, No MORALITY, No PURPOSE of Life

If there is NO TRUTH IN JESUS – No God and CREATOR

If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God.
1 Corinthians 15.32-34

3. Life or Oblivion?

If NO GOD – No REASON to Fear Death > BUT...ALL People Fear DEATH!

One Reason > NOT SURE what is On the OTHER SIDE of Death

Men fear death as children fear the dark. Francis Bacon

If Death was just ANNIHILATION – a FINAL END – Nothing to FEAR

We know it is JOURNEY to SOMEWHERE – Beginning of NEW STATE

Samuel Johnson wrote of HORROR at DEATH of his FRIEND...

At the sign of this last conflict I felt a sensation never known to me before: a confusion of passions, an awful stillness of sorrow, a gloomy terror without a name.

Samuel Johnson

To DIE without JESUS is to Face the TERROR of JUDGEMENT

To DIE without JESUS means you will PAY Penalty for your Sin in HELL

Jesus is DIVIDING LINE between WRATH of God and ETERNAL LIFE

HOPE for - Dark Minds, Hard Hearts, Perverse Wills – is VOICE of GOD

Jesus: “I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live” John 5.25

Ephesians 4. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.