

6. Living Proof.

God's Not Dead

Recap – Faith is not blind.

CHALLENGES

- We can find the truth by ourselves
- Science has all the answers
- We invent God because of our psychological needs
- Religion causes all the trouble in the world

REALITY

- Philosophy has given up on the big questions
- Science has more questions than answers
- People also disbelieve in God because of their psychological needs!
- Atheism has a worse record than religion

Recap – Good and evil are real.

- Evil is real
- Everyone believes in moral absolutes
- Morality cannot be absolute without God



Recap – There was a beginning.

- The universe came out of nothing (via the "Big Bang")
- It is fine-tuned to the 10th degree for life
- It is written in a mathematical code that our minds are programmed to understand.

Co-incidence or creation??

Recap – Life is no accident.

- Is evolution true? Maybe
- Is evolution the whole truth? NO!
 - It doesn't explain the start of the universe
 - It doesn't explain the beginning life
 - It doesn't explain *us*.

Ludwig van Beethoven.



Recap – The resurrection of Jesus

- Jesus truly died – crucifixion was terminal!
- Jesus' tomb was empty: nobody denied it
- The disciples' experience of Jesus was real: it touched too many people too deeply
- Easter day changed the direction of history – odd if nothing happened!

Why do people not believe??

- Some don't want to: God might interfere with their lives!
- We have an enemy who deceives – 2 Corinthians 4: 3-4
- Everyone starts with a world-view, which we don't easily change.

An atheist world view

The universe is an accident

Jesus: just a man, no resurrection, religious experience = delusion

No God

Life emerged + evolved randomly

Humans: just a biological machine. Freedom, good + evil, meaning, etc = illusions.

Proof comes from *living*!

- House-buying
- Scientific theories
- Marriage
- Life in general.....

You gather the evidence, but certainty comes through a step of faith and commitment.



Does faith work? i.e. Does Christ make a difference for good?

Case for the defence.

- First Christians – cowards to champions
- Christians through history – healed the sick, cared for poor, fought for justice
- Personal transformation through Christ
- Fiji – an island transformed.

Does faith work? i.e. Does Christ make a difference for good?

Case for the prosecution.

- Crusades
- Inquisition
- Christians backing apartheid + racial discrimination



Yes, but.....

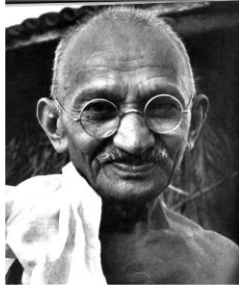
1. Excuses aren't reasons. You can't blame God for being used as an excuse.
2. No teaching in the NT justifies cruelty, violence or racial abuse.
3. Atheism's record is worse
4. Abuses in Christian cultures have been challenged and reformed from within.

Mahatma Gandhi

Speaking about the Bible...

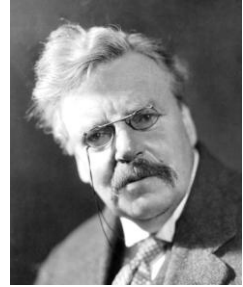
"Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to ...turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet.

But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature"



G.K. Chesterton

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and not tried."



What next?

- Explore your own faith story + learn how to share the living proof of what God has done in your own life.
- Collect other people's faith stories to share



"Taste and see... that the Lord is good"

Psalm 34: 8.