

Finding Life Video Series 2: The Light and Life

Video 1: The Message - Part 1

Hello, and welcome to the second part of this video series. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to finding the answers to life's most important questions, and thus to finding the purpose and meaning to your life. The first video series called, 'Life's Most Important Journey', was preparation for this second series. The first series identified the major obstacles to successfully taking life's most important journey – pride, fear and selfishness. Pride, fear and selfishness blind us to ourselves, our needs, and the larger or ultimate reality around us.

We defined some important concepts about human nature like beliefs, emotions and principles. We explored the important idea that complicated machines – whether mechanical or biological – require a designer to reasonably account for their existence. We also concluded that a physicalist view of the world – a view that believes that atoms, molecules, proteins etc. adequately explain human life - was in fact inadequate to account for some properties, aspects and abilities of human nature – namely that we clearly do have a metaphysical component to our person, often called a soul, spirit or personality...that our ability to reason, to hold and know abstract thoughts, to intuitively know right behavior from wrong behavior, to have our emotions associated with our thoughts, to forge self-preservation for love...all validate the correct view that we are not merely a physical being...that physical building blocks like proteins simply cannot account for those human attributes anymore that a computer's hardware can adequately account for its software.

We then turned towards finding this Designer and what this Designer might want of us. We briefly looked at religion and the most popular people that religion holds up as messengers for

God. We evaluated those people against three criteria and found them wanting...all except for one. We introduced the Designer's messenger in the last video, and heard a few of his teachings for the human race. We are now ready for this second video series, where we will take a close look at this messenger and his message to gain clarity on both what the Designer intends for human beings as well as our own life purpose as it fits into the Designer's general purpose for humans.

As a start to this new series, let's define some key concepts as this is very important to have a proper understanding of the messenger. Remember, we have validated that the Messenger is the representative of the Designer of the human race and thus he is the standard against which all things regarding human nature or the human experience, are measured. To hear or understand our validation criteria, please see video 10 of the first series entitled, "The Messenger". So, let's define important concepts according to his teachings. Please listen carefully to these definitions as they will very likely be quite different from what you have been taught or heard.

Jesus Christ: The popular name used to refer to the subject of what is referred to as the new testament. The name "Jesus" is the Hebrew to Greek to English rendering of the Hebrew name "Yehoshua". A valid Hebrew to English rendering of "Yehoshua" is Joshua. 'Christ' is a title meaning 'anointed one'. Due to Christian religion, the following things are true regarding the phrase or name 'Jesus Christ':

1. The phrase has lost an objective connection to the historical person of Joshua of Nazareth;
2. The phrase or name means something different to each religious sect or person since no objective standard is used for defining the 'name';
3. The phrase or name has become little more than a phrase used when exasperated.

In short, due to Christian religion and its adoption of relativism as a guiding framework, the phrase or name 'Jesus Christ' has become essentially meaningless other than an empty god figurehead. While 'Jesus Christ' could be a valid identifier for the actual person who lived about 2,000 years ago, due to the reasons just given, if a more accurate alternative existed to refer to the actual historical person, it should be used. One does exist and thus we will use Joshua of

Nazareth.

Joshua of Nazareth: This is the actual person who lived about 2,000 years ago and is the subject of the first four books of what men call the new testament. While many use the name “Jesus Christ” to refer to Joshua of Nazareth, the christian’s ‘Jesus’ is unknowable since he takes the form each of the thousands of sects want him to take in order to serve their purposes. In contrast, Joshua of Nazareth is an actual person whose life and teachings were witnessed and recorded and those recordings of his life and teachings serve as an objective basis to know and understand that historical person.

Religion: Religion is the things that people believe and do – which things have no basis in Joshua’s teachings – in order to be accepted by a supreme being or be in accordance with a supreme being or to gain entry into heaven or a desirable afterlife; or to understand their upcoming physical death or the death of a loved one. Religion is not – nor does it accurately represent - the person or teachings of Joshua of Nazareth.

The Bible: The bible is the book most christian’s look to as their source for their religion and understanding God and what God is like. There is a popular belief that many christian’s hold - that the bible is “God’s word to mankind”. This is derived from a teaching of Paul, the primary author of what is called the new testament. This belief about the bible has no basis in Joshua of Nazareth’s teachings and in fact is used to nullify many of Joshua’s most important teachings. In contrast, Joshua is a person whose teachings and actions were recorded in four books that were placed in the large book called the bible. Those four books are often referred to as “the gospels” or good news books and are found at the beginning of what people call the new testament.

Christianity: Christianity is a major world religion which claims the person they call ‘jesus christ’ as their figurehead. It is a religious system comprised of its leadership and their followers and their beliefs about God; their money, material things, buildings, seminaries, programs, ministries and education material...in short, all the stuff the leaders of Christendom claim as important to

God which in fact are not according to Joshua of Nazareth...that is Christianity.

Church: The term 'church' is an English word translated from the Greek word "ekklesia", which word means "called out one's", or a collective group of called out people. The modern definition of "church" has no basis whatsoever in Joshua of Nazareth's teachings. The word "church" is only used twice in all of Joshua's teachings and it never means a building with christian symbols on it that serves as a meeting place for Christians. Nor does the term mean an organization or its ministries or programs. Again, the term means a person or people who have been called out of something. Joshua provides a clear answer as to called out of what.

Christian: A christian is someone who identifies with that label or one of the many religious sects or denominations that represent Christianity – such as Catholic or Protestant or Anglican or Orthodox or Lutheran or Baptist or Methodist or Presbyterian or Pentecostal or Amish or Mennonite, or one of the other thousands of sects or divisions which claim to represent him. It is someone who listens primarily to others who claim to know God or 'Jesus Christ' instead of listening solely to Joshua of Nazareth himself.

A follower, student or disciple of Joshua of Nazareth: A follower or student of Joshua of Nazareth is someone who has faith in Joshua and the One who sent him, and who looks to Joshua alone as their leader and master...it is someone who frames their existence within what the teachings of Joshua provide in the four gospels regarding human life and human existence.

Love: Love is the most important concept Joshua the Messenger addresses. Love is caring about and caring other people – it is selfless behavior motivated by compassion for the other person.

Love does not consider outward appearances or labels, but rather sees other people as valuable to the Designer and to others, and worthy of kind treatment. Love is not blind, rather those who love well see fully and clearly and are not influenced by physical, outward or the non-behavior attributes of a person. Love draws people together and causes people to want to be together for good and right purposes. Love overcomes pride and fear and selfishness and causes people to care

for each other on a daily basis...**love never asks for or takes money or material things to express itself.**

Truth: Truth is most often used to mean being in accord with fact or reality, or fidelity to an original or to a standard or ideal. Truth is the correct understanding of what is true and false, right or wrong in any realm. Joshua the messenger says he is the truth that matters about human life, human existence and the human soul or spirit. When he says, “I am the truth”, that would be an exclusive claim in the realm of defining humans and human behavior that would stand against other such claims...in other words, if another person also claimed that they are the truth regarding defining humans and human behavior, they would contradict Joshua and one of them would be a false claim.

Faith: In contrast to religion, faith is a trust or confidence in something or someone. It is not a belief or a set of beliefs or doctrine or teachings about God. For someone to place their faith in anything they first need to believe it exists. Faith is not an intellectual endeavor, rather, it is one of the heart or will - a state of being, or what a person at their deepest level is trusting in for something.

Hope: Hope is a perspective about something future...it is a looking forward to some event or state of being in the future. Faith and hope can be closely aligned, depending upon what one places their faith or hope in.

The World: Joshua of Nazareth refers to the concept of “the world” in his teachings. When the context indicates he is not talking about the earth, the world means the people of the earth who do not have Joshua as their leader, and thus who do not listen to him nor do what he says. The religious label a person takes makes no difference in this regard, for most Christians do not listen to Joshua of Nazareth nor intend to do what he says.

OK, those are some important concepts we need to understand in order to embark on our introduction to the messenger.

Before we look at the messenger and his message, let's consider the message by first taking a brief look at christianity's alternative message that does not represent Joshua of Nazareth or his teachings. Let's start by looking at what the christian's call "the gospel" or the central message of the christian religion. We will take a look at what is believed by most to be the central or core message of Christianity given by perhaps the most popular modern proclaimer of that message, Billy Graham and his gospel.

The following material is taken directly from Mr. Graham's website:

Quote - "How to Know Jesus

In four brief steps, you can come to an understanding of how to find eternal life.

During Billy Graham's landmark 1954 London Crusade, his team developed a simple system to bring people to faith known as "Steps to Peace with God." Since that time, and in various printed and electronic forms, this succinct and clear presentation of how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and experience peace with God has been translated into dozens of languages and shared with millions of people.

"Steps to Peace with God" is the natural overflow of the Gospel message Billy Graham has given around the world. It clearly conveys God's love, forgiveness, and plan for each person's life." End of quote.

So, to sum up, Billy Graham's team is going to provide people with steps to peace with God as well as the plan for each person's life. He goes onto list the four steps that will get people into heaven or eternal life. The source quoted as the authority to validate that the steps are real and right is "the bible". Out of the 15 quotes from the implied standard the bible, only two or 13% are from Joshua of Nazareth. So, while the Christians claim to represent Joshua of Nazareth, they in fact do not look to him for the core of their beliefs or their gospel or good news. And what do they provide as "the plan for each person's life"? It appears to be "join a religious organization, otherwise known as a church". That is a very deficient, shallow and narrow plan for anyone's life since church-going accounts for less than 5% of people's waking hours and generally does not affect the

way one lives for the other 95% of their life! Let's take a look at Christianity's core message as given by Billy Graham's organization.

Step 1 of the popular version of the Christian gospel is entitled, "God's purpose: peace and life".

Please note that while Joshua of Nazareth does want his followers to experience peace and enter into eternal life, he does not state anywhere that that is the Designer's primary purpose for people.

Here is an illustration to help you understand - it is a bit like a family trapped under a house after a tornado except for one child, a son. The dad says to his son, "go, find help to get us out of here".

So the boy goes looking for help. Of course the dad would like his son to be safe and to not be afraid while he searches for help, but his safety in traveling and managing his fear are not the primary purpose the boy was given, rather it was to find help to rescue his family.

In like manner, God's primary purpose is not for people to have inner peace, a good life on the earth and heaven at the end. Therefore, this claim from Mr. Graham is only partly true and is falsely represented in its context. We will learn what the Designer's true purpose is for people in future videos.

Step 2 of the Christian gospel is entitled, "The Problem: Our Separation". Paul and the Jewish scriptures are used as the basis for this belief instead of Joshua of Nazareth. The basic teaching is, because we are imperfect beings, and we make mistakes and sometimes do what we know is wrong, God is angry with us and will not give us Life unless a sacrifice is paid to Him so that He might forgive us. This is false.

As we have seen, we as human beings are apt to be captured by our pride, fear or selfishness which prevents us from turning to any person who could help us. This is the true cause of separation from our Creator. While adult humans have pride, fear and selfishness ruling their person and are thus in a state of captivity; and while human adults remain 'captive' if they do not turn to the Creator and His messenger in faith; the fact is that God is not angry with people, nor does He demand a sacrifice to receive people. As we look at Joshua's teachings in future videos, he will

reveal the true nature of God.

Step 3 of the Christian gospel is entitled, “God’s Bridge: The Cross”. Again, no quotes from Joshua of Nazareth to justify or back up the content behind the step. This step says that ‘Jesus Christ’ was the sacrifice God needed in order to forgive people. It supports the belief that God required that His innocent Son be sacrificed on the cross to pay for the sins of the guilty sons, so that God could forgive people and give free tickets to heaven to all who believe that religious doctrine...please note how they make the instrument of his death central to their gospel – the cross – instead of the person himself. This belief is grossly wrong as will be revealed in future videos.

Step 4 of the Christian gospel is entitled, “Our Response: Receive Christ”. Again, no direct quotes from Joshua of Nazareth to support the content associated with the step. This step is a clever slight of hand that contains truth, yet only enough truth to psychologically entice and manipulate people. Whatever “Receive Christ” means, what we can be absolutely sure that it does not mean is to make Joshua the leader and Master of your life and thus live according to his teachings. Instead, it is merely some empty words – an incantation of sorts – that leads people to believe that by saying the words and participating in religious organizations, they get to go to heaven. They even provide the words of the incantation – what they call a prayer - for people to read off the web site.

There are many teachings of Joshua which plainly say that following him is not easy, and we will take a look at those teachings in future videos. Unfortunately, shallow religion and empty words is the very reason that the real Light of the world is so difficult to find. While it is tragic that the Designer’s messenger is so difficult to find amidst the blizzard of religion in his name, all hope is not lost as we shall see.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness, pretentiousness and falseness of bible or Christian religion, and instead seek deeper to find the Light!